SUNDAY
September 28, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960

Vol. 56 • No. 39

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

SUNDAY
September 28, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960

Vol. 56 • No. 39

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

RICH VARIETY

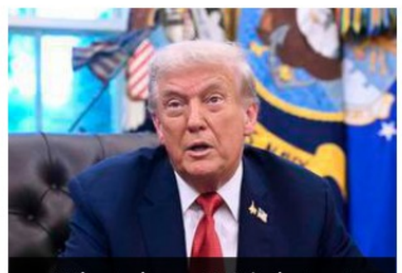
Unveiling Kaziranga's hidden treasures

A study records 254 species of insects and 29 species of spiders, which officials regard as 'overlooked' biodiversity

NEWS» PAGE 9

Eight arrested over Bareilly violence

NEWS » PAGE 7



What does U.S.'s latest H-1B directive state?

FAQ » PAGE 12

India takes on Pakistan in dream Asia Cup final

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

CM pulls up civic officials over potholes, waste

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah conducted city rounds on Saturday to inspect roads and came down heavily on engineers, contractors, and civic officials over pothole-ridden roads and unattended waste. » PAGE 4

Guarantees offered financial fillip to women

BENGALURU
An independent study has shown several women reporting that the Karnataka government's five guarantee schemes have helped reduce the financial stress on their families. » PAGE 5

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE J4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

At least 38 dead in stampede at actor Vijay's rally in Karur

Chaos as crowd rushes to see the actor on congested road; eight children and 16 women among those dead

T.N. CM Stalin leaves for Karur, announces ₹10 lakh for kin of deceased; retired judge to head probe panel

C. Jaisankar
Nacchinarkkiniyan M.
KARUR

At least 38 people, including eight children and 16 women, died in a stampede at a rally addressed by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay in Karur on Saturday, as part of his State-wide political tour. Over 80 people were injured.

Rush hour: People injured during the stampede at a rally being rushed in to Government Hospital in Karur on Saturday. M. MOORTHY

The meeting, held at Velusamypuram, began at 7.20 p.m. and drew several thousand people who had been packed into congested roads from the morning, waiting to see and hear Mr. Vijay. As the crowd, mostly youngsters, surged towards the vehicles to see the actor-turned-politician, many people who had been standing at the meeting point since 10 a.m. were forced to move to give way for Mr. Vijay's vehicle. With very little room left to move, chaos and confusion ensued, triggering a stampede. Several people fell on a covered shed, where a generator had been placed to provide electricity to illuminate the area.

As the event progressed, there were repeated instances of people fainting. Witnessing their distress, Mr. Vijay paused his speech, threw water bottles from his van, and asked one of his aides to check on the gathering.

When he noticed someone collapse near his vehicle, he used the microphone to instruct party members to call an ambulance immediately.

Seeing many people fainting and sensing that the situation was getting out of control, Mr. Vijay cut short his speech and left the spot, which by then resembled a war zone, with hundreds of shoes and sandals, water bottles, clothes, and other possessions strewn on the road.

Soon, ambulances arrived and transported the injured to the old Government Hospital and the Government Medical College Hospital in Karur. Reports of missing children in the aftermath of the stampede added to the chaos.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Karur Medical College Hospital Dean R. Shanthimalar said: "Nearly 50 people are being treated in the ICU ward. More cases are still coming in." Many of those injured are still in a serious condition, officials said.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who left for Karur on Saturday night, announced a solatium of ₹10 lakh to the families of those who died in the stampede, and ₹1 lakh for those who were hospitalised. The State government has announced a panel to be headed by retired judge Aruna Jagadeesan to probe the circumstances that led to the stampede, Mr. Stalin said.

Mr. Vijay, in a late-night post on X, said his heart was shattered and he was languishing in pain. He expressed his deep condolence and grief to "dear brothers and sisters". He said he was also praying for the speedy recovery of those admitted to hospital.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7
RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 6

Graft 'doubled' in some depts. under Congress rule: Contractors' assn.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major embarrassment to the ruling Congress, the Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA) has claimed that corruption in some departments in the Siddaramaiah-led government had "doubled" compared with the previous BJP regime.

The KSCA in its three-page letter on September 25, addressed to the Chief Minister, said, "When you were Leader of the Opposition, you assured us that after you come to power, no commission will be sought by your government to clear pending bills. But, we regret to inform you that the commission has doubled now in certain departments compared with the previous government."

Bills not cleared

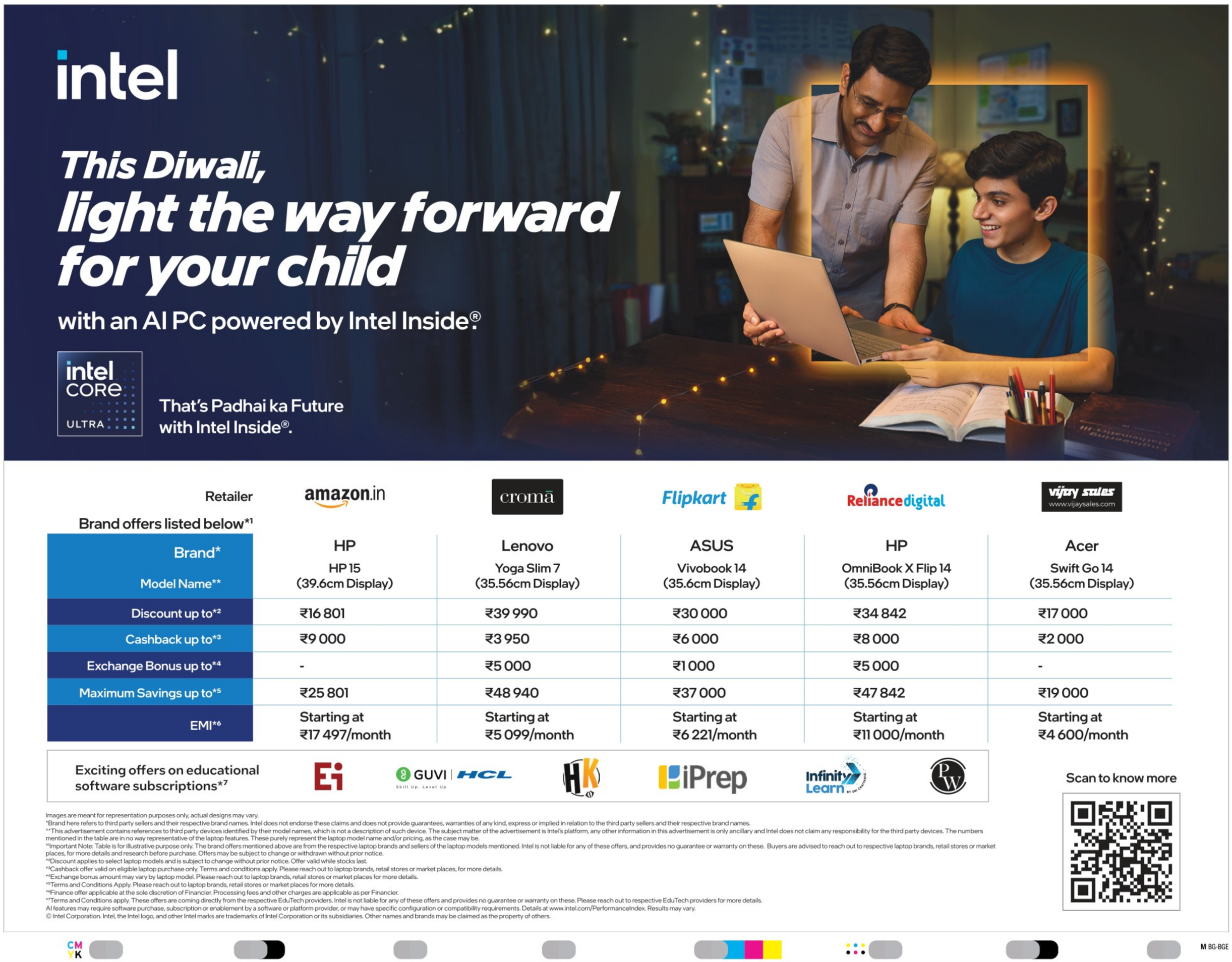
The letter by KSCA president R. Manjunath and general secretary G.M. Ravindra said that despite several rounds of talks, till now, eight departments have not cleared pending bills.

This is for the first time that the Congress government, which came to power in the 2023 elections on an anti-corruption plank, has received a written letter from the KSCA, alleging corruption in the ruling dispensation.

They alleged that State government institutions such as Nirmiti Kendra and the Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (KRIDL) award projects to "supporters or followers of elected representatives and party workers".

These followers and workers then hand over their projects to senior contractors in exchange for commission.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2


intel
This Diwali,
light the way forward
for your child
with an AI PC powered by Intel Inside®.
intel CORE ULTRA
That's Padhai ka Future
with Intel Inside®.
Retailer
amazon.in
croma
Flipkart
Reliancedigital
vijay sales
www.vijaysales.com
Brand offers listed below*1
Brand*
Model Name**
HP
HP 15
(39.6cm Display)
Lenovo
Yoga Slim 7
(35.56cm Display)
ASUS
Vivobook 14
(35.6cm Display)
HP
OmniBook X Flip 14
(35.56cm Display)
Acer
Swift Go 14
(35.56cm Display)
Discount up to*2
₹16 801
₹39 990
₹30 000
₹34 842
₹17 000
Cashback up to*3
₹9 000
₹3 950
₹6 000
₹8 000
₹2 000
Exchange Bonus up to*4
-
₹5 000
₹1 000
₹5 000
-
Maximum Savings up to*5
₹25 801
₹48 940
₹37 000
₹47 842
₹19 000
EMI*6
Starting at ₹17 497/month
Starting at ₹5 099/month
Starting at ₹6 221/month
Starting at ₹11 000/month
Starting at ₹4 600/month
Exciting offers on educational software subscriptions*7
GUVI | HCL
Skill Up. Level Up
iPrep
Infinity Learn
Scan to know more
Images are meant for representation purposes only, actual designs may vary.
*Brand here refers to third party sellers and their respective brand names. Intel does not endorse these claims and does not provide guarantees, warranties of any kind, express or implied in relation to the third party sellers and their respective brand names.
**This advertisement contains references to third party devices identified by their model names, which is not a description of such device. The subject matter of the advertisement is Intel's platform, any other information in this advertisement is only ancillary and Intel does not claim any responsibility for the third party devices. The numbers mentioned in the table are in no way representative of the laptop features. These purely represent the laptop model name and/or pricing, as the case may be.
*Important Note: Table is for illustrative purpose only. The brand offers mentioned above are from the respective laptop brands and sellers of the laptop models mentioned. Intel is not liable for any of these offers, and provides no guarantee or warranty on these. Buyers are advised to reach out to respective laptop brands, retail stores or market places, for more details and research before purchase. Offers may be subject to change or withdrawn without prior notice.
*2Discount applies to select laptop models and is subject to change without prior notice. Offer valid while stocks last.
*3Cashback offer valid on eligible laptop purchase only. Terms and conditions apply. Please reach out to laptop brands, retail stores or market places, for more details.
*4Exchange bonus amount may vary by laptop model. Please reach out to laptop brands, retail stores or market places for more details.
*5Terms and Conditions Apply. Please reach out to laptop brands, retail stores or market places for more details.
*6Finance offer applicable at the sole discretion of Financier. Processing fees and other charges are applicable as per Financier.
*7Terms and Conditions apply. These offers are coming directly from the respective EduTech providers. Intel is not liable for any of these offers and provides no guarantee or warranty on these. Please reach out to respective EduTech providers for more details.
AI features may require software purchase, subscription or enablement by a software or platform provider, or may have specific configuration or compatibility requirements. Details at www.intel.com/PerformanceIndex. Results may vary.
© Intel Corporation. Intel, the Intel logo, and other Intel marks are trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries. Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

At work: Engineers and naval staff guide the Sikorsky UH-3H into place, ensuring it is securely mounted for public display.

Safe landing: Eastern Naval Command personnel position the UH-3H helicopter on its seafront pedestal, adding a new exhibit to Visakhapatnam's maritime corridor.

Preserving the legacy: The UH-3H, part of INAS 350 Saaras Squadron and decommissioned at INS Dega in June 2024, served for decades.

Wings at rest: The Sikorsky UH-3H Sea King is positioned prominently along the Beach Road in Visakhapatnam.

From skies above to shores below

De-inducted by Indian Naval Air Squadron 350 in 2024, the UH-3H helicopter now welcomes visitors on Visakhapatnam's Beach Road; inside, photographs and panels introduce visitors to the operations and responsibilities of naval aviators

K.R. Deepak
deepak.kr@thehindu.co.in

The UH-3H helicopter, once active in Indian skies, has now been installed as a museum exhibit on Beach Road, Visakhapatnam. De-inducted by the Indian Naval Air Squadron 350 in 2024, the aircraft introduces visitors to the operations and responsibilities of naval aviators through an accessible display of interiors. It was positioned on its seafront pedestal with the help of a heavy-duty crane, guided into place under the supervision of engineers and naval staff.

The UH-3H Museum is the newest link to Visakhapatnam's distinctive sequence of maritime museums. Within a short distance stand the INS Kursura Submarine Museum, the TU-142 Aircraft Museum, the Sea Harrier Museum, and the Visakha Maritime Museum. Together, they create a continuous coastal corridor of naval history, each site contributing a separate aspect of India's defence and maritime traditions.

Inside the newly inaugurated UH-3H helicopter Museum, a glass-fronted entrance leads into galleries with photographs, panels, and audio-visual materials that outline the helicopter's history. The exhibition culminates with the aircraft itself, positioned for visitors to explore its interior. The arrangement allows them to observe the crew compartment and cockpit in detail, providing a practical sense of its operational use.

Originally designed by Sikorsky for the United States Navy, the UH-3H helicopters served for decades. Six refurbished aircraft, acquired alongside *INS Jalashwa*, were inducted into the Indian Navy in 2009 and stationed at INS Dega. Known as Saaras, these aircraft undertook search and rescue duties and humanitarian assistance during cyclones and floods in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Now preserved on the city's shoreline, the UH-3H Museum completes Visakhapatnam's maritime circuit, offering a connected record of naval service across land, sea, and air.

Final touchdown: The Sikorsky UH-3H nears its final position.

STANLEY

BOLD. BESPOKE. BEAUTIFUL.

COMPLETE HOME FURNITURE SOLUTIONS

Designed, engineered and crafted to perfection with the finest ethically sourced materials from around the world in our state-of-the-art factories.

Made in Stanley, The Stanley way.

ON SALE NOW

Living | Dining | Bedding | Kitchens | Wardrobes | More..

Done by LUXOREACH 27 09 2025

Luxury Format Store
Showcasing Full Home Solutions

STANLEY LEVEL NEXT

Flagship Store, Bangalore
Electronic City - 74064 44444

City Stores, Bangalore
Sadashivanagar - 99720 67005
Indiranagar - 74062 22222
Airport Road - 96112 09520

Premium Format Store
Showcasing Loose Furnitures

STANLEY BOUTIQUE

City Stores, Bangalore
Banashankri - 81476 92259
Dickenson Road - 81479 92779
Mission Road - 97314 84533
Airport Road - 96112 09520
Banaswadi - 96111 28236

Premium Format Store
Showcasing Full Home Solutions

STANLEY BOUTIQUE HOMES

Flagship Store, Bangalore
Kanakapura Road - 99026 50790

SCAN TO REACH US

Stanley Level Next and Stanley Boutique are a registered trademark of Stanley Lifestyles Limited. Any unauthorized use, copying, reproduction, or distribution of these trademark are strictly prohibited. All rights reserved.

J BG-BGE

GST
Bachat
Utsav
BACHAT UTSAV BRINGS CHEER & HAPPINESS TO MY FAMILY
FESTIVAL OF SAVINGS, SEASON OF JOY
1.5 TON AC IS CHEAPER BY NEARLY ₹2,800
42-INCH TV IS CHEAPER BY NEARLY ₹3,500
MONITOR, DISHWASHER AND POWER BANK BECOME MORE AFFORDABLE
भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
CBC 15502/13/0025/2526

‘This milestone is not just about breaking barriers, but about building bridges’

Uma Reddy is the first woman president of the 108-year-old FKCCI; she says her target will be to empower MSMEs in State

INTERVIEW

Uma Reddy

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The new FKCCI president Uma Reddy. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

It took over 108 years for the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), founded by Sir M. Visvesvaraya in 1916, to get its first woman president.

Uma Reddy took charge as the 92nd president of the trade body. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ms. Reddy said that her target would be to empower micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Karnataka with technology and skills, create opportunities for women and youth, and to contribute to sustainability and green economy initiatives. Ms. Reddy is the managing director of Hitech Magnetics and Electronics, and under her leadership, the company has grown in the specialised field of power electronics, an area where women representation has been minimal. An electrical engineer from the UVCE, Bengaluru, she has been in the business of manufacturing transformers and coils for electronic and industrial application for over three decades.

Excerpts from the interview:

You are the first woman head of FKCCI. Why do women take time to reach the top?
I have been with FKCCI for 20 years, and it is definitely an honour for me to have been elevated to the post of president. The moment is both personally significant and historically meaningful as I become the first woman to hold this position in our 108-year legacy. I believe that once I’ve taken over this mantle, there would be many more women to take leadership roles in the chambers of commerce. This milestone is not just about breaking barriers, but about building bridges – for women, for MSMEs, and for Karnataka’s future. My vision is to make FKCCI a platform that champions innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable growth, while carrying forward the rich legacy of this institution.

What is your advice to women entrepreneurs in particular and the trade community in general?
I believe that chambers of commerce are gender-neutral, and chamber leaders are part of mainstream business. However, women leaders need to be resilient and persevere to ensure success. The main objective of FKCCI has always been policy advocacy, which is the pillar stone that supports a growth of trade, manufacturing and service industry. The trade body with over 5,000 direct members and over two lakh members, through its various district associations, district chambers, and associations, will continue to be a facilitator in ease of doing business.

As FKCCI chief, what are the things that you would be focusing on?
As a team, we want to make FKCCI not only Karnataka’s pride, but the world’s benchmark for inclusive, innovative, and impactful commerce. Let us empower MSME’s with technology and skills, opportunities for women and youth, embrace, sustainability and green economy and amplify Karnataka global footprint. In addition to its flagship events, FKCCI will also focus on skill development, training, and application of technology.

You are taking over at a juncture when MSMEs are plagued with various internal and external pressures including trade barriers. How do you view this challenge?
Karnataka contributes 8 to 9% of India’s GDP, hosts over 400 Fortune 500 companies, and leads in IT, biotech, space research, and aerospace manufacturing. FKCCI’s role is critical at this juncture in terms of addressing pressing issues such as rising operational costs, global competition, tariff issues, and financing hurdles for MSMEs.

A lot of work has to be done as a team to further strengthen FKCCI’s role as a bridge between industry, government, and society. We will also enhance focus on strengthening the link between startups and industry, skill development training on technology and nurturing agri tech businesses.

Scientist loses ₹8.8 lakh to cyber fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A cyber fraudster, posing as a CBI officer, allegedly duped a 49-year-old scientist of the Indian Institute of Science, and threatened to arrest her for human trafficking and made away with ₹8.8 lakh.

Based on the complaint by the woman scientist, the Central Division cybercrime police registered a case on Wednesday.

According to the complaint, the fraudster called the scientist informing her that she had been booked under 17 criminal cases and that her mobile number was used to commit criminal activities.

The caller informed her that the CBI had obtained Supreme Court permission to arrest her and showed some fake documents of arrest warrant. The fraudster also offered to help and persuaded her to transfer the money online between September 17 and September 19. The cheating came to light when the scientist discussed the issue with her family, and they suggested that she approach the police.

From Page One

Graft ‘doubled’ in some depts under Cong. rule: contractors’ assn.

“It is difficult for us senior contractors to ensure quality when works are subcontracted to us like this,” they said.

Letter to Modi
In July 2021, when the BJP led by Basavaraj Bommai was in power, the KSCA wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi complaining that contractors were forced to pay “40% commission” to Ministers, elected representatives, and officials. The Congress had then launched a campaign against corruption and it was seen as a major reason for the defeat of the Bommai-led government in the 2023.

Mr. Manjunath and Mr. Ravindra said the KSCA had been urging the government to release pending bills worth more than ₹30,000 crore. The Chief Minister had given many assurances on clearing the pending bills, the letter said and added, “so far we have had no benefit from your government”.

According to the KSCA, government departments have not been following seniority for clearing pending bills. “They are deploying their own formula to give special lines of credit (LOC) to contractors, and only 15-20% of the pending bill amount is cleared once in three months,” the letter stated.

The KSCA also accused the Municipal Administration, Urban Development, and Labour departments of corrupt tender practices.

Exceeding orders, officials were converting tenders into packages and awarding contracts to powerful contractors of their choice. It was alleged that the Ministers concerned had not been doing anything to stop it.

Music festival on Oct. 4, 5

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Kidney Foundation (BKF) will host the 20th edition of its Hindustani music festival, *Dhwani*, in memory of legendary classical vocalist Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur at the Bangalore Gayana Samaja, K.R. Road, on October 4 and 5.

On day one, the festival will open with a vocal duet by Arati Ankalikar and Manjusha Patil, from 5 p.m. to 6.45 p.m., followed by other events.

Day two will begin with a vocal concert by Vinayak Torvi from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m., followed by a musical discourse.

Two policemen ‘confess’ to extorting migrant worker

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police unearthing an extortion racket involving a constable attached to the Internal Security Division earlier this month, two police personnel - an assistant sub-inspector and a Hoysala driver - have confessed to extorting ₹75,000 from a migrant worker and his family in Varthur in July. On Friday, they returned the money following an inquiry by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of the Whitefield Division in Bengaluru.

The duo, identified as Ganesh and Prabhu, along with their associate, barged into the house of Lalchand Sheikh, a native of West Bengal and working as a school van driver, accused him of being a Bangladeshi national, and detained him on the charges of illegal immigration and creating fake documents, in the first week of July. According to a senior police official, the accused demanded ₹75,000 for Lalchand’s release from his parents, who tried to reason with him. Sajira, Lalchand’s mother, who worked as a domestic help, arranged the money and transferred online to one of the accused to get her son released.

The victim, with the help of a social activist, approached the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission and brought it to the notice of the Whitefield DCP.

The DCP ordered a probe and summoned the accused, who confessed and returned the money. The matter was referred to the jurisdictional Assistant Commissioner of Police for a detailed probe, a senior police officer said.

R. Kaleemullah, city-based activist, who is one of the complainants in the case, had requested the DCP to take measures to ensure the migrant labourers are not harassed by the accused officials.

The KSHRC is awaiting response from the DCP. According to sources, the two police personnel who have confessed to taking the bribe and returned the money, can be booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The KSHRC officials will summon the complainant and record his statement in this regard, sources said.

Boy killed in wall collapse

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A 11-year-old boy was killed in a wall collapse at Mahalingapur town in Bagalkot district on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Darshan Nagappa Latur. His sibling suffered injuries and has been hospitalised. His sister Roopa and mother escaped. The boy’s father was not at home at the time.

Cleanliness drive held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 and the nationwide *Shramdaan* activity, State Bank of India, Bengaluru Circle, conducted *Swachhotsav* on Thursday. Participants cleaned the park premises, highlighting the theme “Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath.” It stressed the role of cleanliness in maintaining public health, reducing disease risk, etc.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/140/2025 Dated: 19-09-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of a new broad gauge railway line between Maluguru (Chainage (-) 1906.6 (Ch: 108125 of Yelahanka - Penukonda)) to Palasamudram (Chainage 17/150) including 02 new yards (Chalivendala & Palasamudram) and Existing Maluguru Yard modification with a route length of 19.057 km including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical General Service works) **(Tender Ref. No.: MLU-PALASAMUDRAM - EPC01-R2)**	Rs. 2,96,21,09,528/-

Date of closing of Tender is : **Upto 15:00 hrs on 20-11-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/509/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public are hereby notified that the properties mentioned below ("Schedule Property") are the joint family property of late Sri. B. M. Muniswamappa and is subject matter of FDP No.120/2004 and other proceedings. The Schedule Property is not divided by metes and bound between the family members. As such, no family member of the joint family has an independent right over the Schedule Property. My client, Renuka V Reddy W/o Vikram Reddy and D/o late B. M. Krishnamurthy is a joint owner of the Schedule Property and has a share in the Schedule Property. Some of the family members and parties claiming through them are trying to alienate, encumber and create third party rights over the Schedule Property during the pendency of the above proceedings.
Therefore, the general public, Financial Institutions, Banks, Societies, Companies, Firms, Trusts, Associations, etc., are notified and cautioned not to purchase/take on lease, license, mortgage, create security interest or enter into any sort of transaction in respect of the Schedule Property till Schedule Property is divided by metes and bound. In spite of this notice, if any transaction of whatsoever nature is entered into in respect of the Schedule Property, the same shall be at their own risk, consequence and cost, without affecting the rights of my client and they are estopped and forbidden from claiming any bonafides or equities or any rights before any Court, Tribunal, Forums, Commissions, etc.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ITEM No.1: All that piece and parcel of "Bharat Building", bearing Old No.94, 95, 96, 97, New No.129, 128, 127,126, Police Road, K. R. Market, Chickpet, Bengaluru- 560 053 and bounded on: **East by:** Police Road, **West by:** Road Chickpet Metro Station, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private Property.
ITEM No.2: All that piece and parcel of property bearing No.16/35, Old Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru-560 033, wherein, S. M. K. Nursery, Primary and High School is situated and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Gulli Road, **North by:** Private property, **South by:** Temple
ANKITHA .G. SHELKE, Advocate
#203, 2nd Floor, Brigade Business Suites, #44, 100 Ft Road, Jayanagar, 2nd Block, Askoka Pillar, Bengaluru-560 011
Mob No:+91 9986601727
Email: agsadvocates@gmail.com
Date: 27-09-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is intending to purchase the schedule property **Mr. K S SHREYAS** Aged about 37 years, S/o. K.V. Shiva Kumar, (Aadhar- 5692 2041 3658 & PAN No. BACPS4838M), residing at No.3, Church Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004.
Any person/banking institutions/company, etc., has got any sort of legal right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said sale transaction, shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within **7 days** from this day, with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF residential Plot bearing **No.137,** measuring **2400 Sq.ft.**, in the residential layout (formed on the lands more fully described in Schedule 'A' above), known as **'Century Seasons',** survey No. 39/1, measuring 3 acres 19 guntas, survey No.39/2, measuring 5 acres, survey No. 40/2, measuring 5 acres 06 guntas (inclusive of 8 guntas of regularized converted A kharab land), survey No. 40/3, measuring 3 acres 01 gunta, survey No. 43/1, measuring 4 acres 15 guntas; and survey No. 43/2, measuring 4 acres, of **Lakshmipura Village, Kasaba Hobli, (earlier part of Kundana Hobli), Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** & is bounded on the:
East by : Site No.99 and 100,
West by : Road
North by : Site No.136
South by : Site No.138
N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-61. Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

Detangling the knots of e-governance for Karnataka citizens, one click at a time

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Zen Citizen, a volunteer-powered initiative, aims to provide clear and practical information and custom tools that make government websites more citizen-friendly. FILE PHOTO

Ever pulled out your hair trying to navigate your way through buggy websites, crowded interfaces and confusing instructions of government websites while trying to avail a service? Has transferring a BESCOM connection, applying for a marriage certificate, or correcting details on an e-khata felt like jumping through hoops?

Zen Citizen, a volunteer-powered initiative, aims to demystify these procedures by providing clear and practical information, and custom tools that make government websites more citizen-friendly.

Information goldmine
Founded by Vineeta K., a former data analyst, in August 2024, the platform offers guides that cover the entire journey of applying for government services, explaining how to plan ahead, prepare the required documents and handle issues after the application is submitted. Not only do they explain confusing instructions and give workarounds for technical glitches, but also offer practical tips to circumvent delaying tactics and challenge unfair rejections.

One of the tips on the website suggests avoiding wearing shorts while appearing for a driving test. Yet another one warns of being asked for a bribe while submitting Khata applications.

From suggesting Mac users to switch to a mobile device or a Windows computer while trying to eSign on the Kaveri portal, to advising one to enter their first and last names in the ‘first name’ field itself while applying for an encumbrance certificate, Zen Citizen can be a goldmine of useful information.

All the information is provided for free.

Tools to make life easy
The volunteers of Zen Citizen have also developed multiple tools, including the Kaveri Village Finder, Civic Compass, Kaveri Image Resizer and Spashta, an AI chatbot.

Kaveri Village Finder helps people find their village and see its mapped district, taluk, and hobli details as per the Kaveri database. Civic Compass can be used to identify the BBMP, BDA, Revenue, BESCOM, BWSSB offices, and Police stations for one’s area.

Kaveri Image Resizer helps to resize, format, and compress photo for marriage certificate application to meet the Kaveri portal’s requirements. The chatbots can be used for finding answers to specific questions instead of browsing through lengthy guides.

“Corruption has been so normalised and a fact of life. But I do believe that there are ways around the system. And within the given constraints, there are ways we can make the best of the situation,” says Ms. Vineeta, who terms Zen Citizen a parallel effort to the digital services provided by the government.

The initiative now primarily focuses on services provided by the Revenue Department, including obtaining encumbrance certificates (EC), marriage certificates, certified copies of registered documents, and property registration.

A rotating team of volunteers run Zen Citizen. Most came on board when the idea was shared on Reddit for feedback.

The website costs are managed with the help of ₹ 1 lakh grant from Dr. Aniruddha Malpani, anti-corruption activist and angel investor.

Ms. Vineeta notes that the initiative has no intent to name and shame. “At Zen Citizen, we focus on working around broken systems – no whistleblowing, lobbying for policy changes, signature campaigns, marches, or protests. Others are doing that important work; we’re simply taking a different route. Our deeper goal is to fight petty corruption by quietly empowering people.”

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, SEP. 28	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:11
RISE 11:16	SET 22:41
MONDAY, SEP. 29	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:11
RISE 12:08	SET 23:34
TUESDAY, SEP. 30	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:10
RISE 13:01	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	26	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.

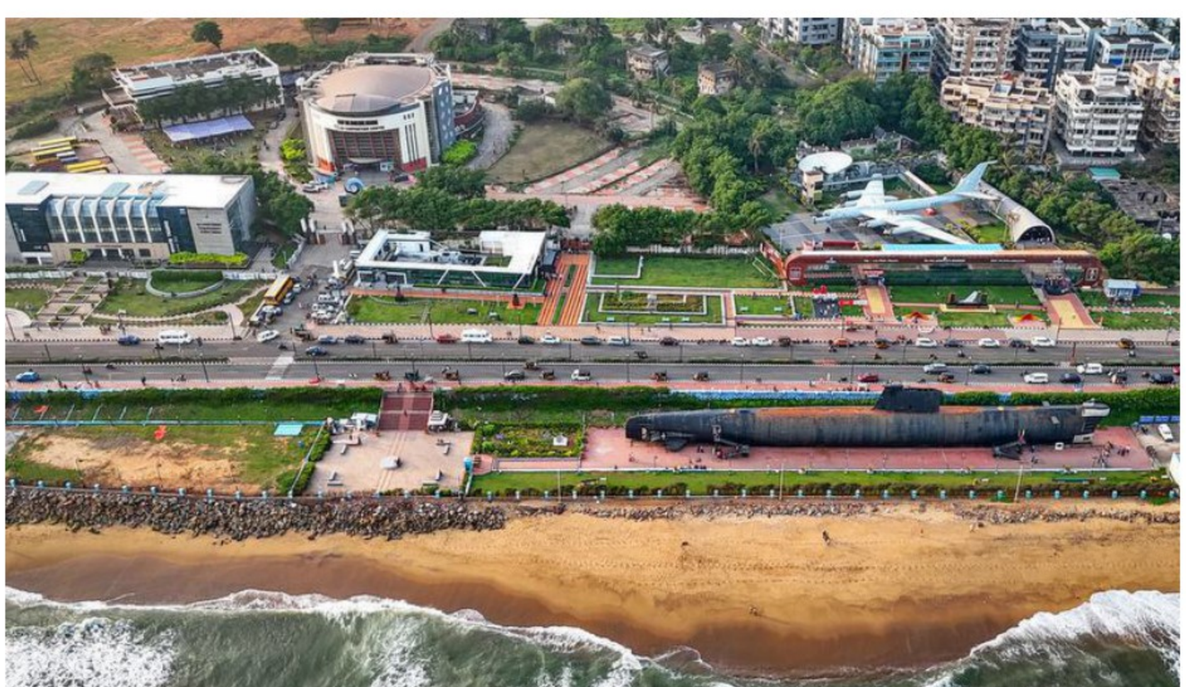
THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

All set: Naval personnel prepare the UH-3H interiors ahead of its display, allowing visitors to explore the cockpit and crew compartment.

On display: The Sikorsky UH-3H Sea King positioned on Beach Road, inviting visitors to experience its operational interiors and history.

Walk through history: Tourists explore the newly inaugurated UH-3H Helicopter Museum, part of Visakhapatnam's extended maritime corridor near the TU-142 Aircraft and Kursura Submarine Museums.

View from the sky: An aerial view of the UH-3H helicopter Museum. It has galleries with photographs, panels, and audio-visual materials that outline the helicopter's history.



Museum trail: A glimpse of Visakhapatnam's maritime corridor, featuring the Sea Harrier Museum, UH-3H Helicopter Museum, TU-142 Aircraft Museum, and INS Kursura Submarine Museum.

CMYK

S BG-BGE

SUNDAY
September 28, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960

Vol. 56 • No. 39

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

GOVT. OF PUNJAB

Shaheed-E-Azam

Sardar Bhagat Singh

Realizing the Unfulfilled Dreams of Shaheed Bhagat Singh

Tributes on the 118th Birth Anniversary

Under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab Government's Revolutionary Steps

- **Zero electricity bills** in 90% of households
- **55,201** government jobs for youth
- More than **2.77 lakh** jobs in the private sector
- Under the 'Yudh Nashiyan Virudh' campaign **17,904 FIRs registered and 27,719 drug smugglers arrested**
- **₹10 lakh health insurance** for every family in Punjab
- **3,000 new world-class playgrounds** in rural areas
- 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics; **Total 4.04 Crore patients visited for availing treatment.**
- **118 new Schools** of Eminence

S. Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

1092/18/2025-26/3633

Shortage of guest lecturers: Students boycott classes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thousands of students across Karnataka staged a Statewide boycott of classes in government degree colleges on Saturday, protesting the government's failure to appoint guest lecturers and highlighting the growing academic crisis like situation in these institutions.

Over 70,000 students across districts, including Kalaburagi, Bengaluru, Ballari, Mysuru, Raichur, Dharwad, Shivamogga, Hassan, Yadgir, Chitradurga, Koppal, and others, participated in the boycott, organised by the All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) Karnataka State Committee.

Comparing government and private institutions, students argued that while private institutions have already completed two internal tests and are preparing for semester exams, many government degree colleges have not conducted a single class due to the absence of guest lecturers. They said that they would intensify their agitation until the government addresses their demands.

This comes in response to universities issuing semester timetables and exam fee circulars despite classes not being held.

Holiday exodus adds to city's weekend snarls; commuters lament prolonged delays

The CBD and shopping hubs were the worst affected, as traffic crawled along stretches such as M.G. Road, Brigade Road, and Residency Road, among others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A view of slow-moving traffic on Mysuru Road in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Roads in Bengaluru were chock o block on Saturday evening as the Chief Minister's city rounds, weekend crowds, and festival shoppers led to a gridlock at several key junctions.

The Central Business District (CBD) and shopping hubs in the city centre were the worst affected, as traffic crawled along stretches such as M.G. Road, Brigade Road, Residency Road, Avenue Road, S.P. Road, and B.V.K. Iyengar Road.

The importance of J.C. Road was evident on Saturday when its connecting and ancillary stretches were choked with traffic following the partial closure of the road. J.C. Road serves as a critical link not just for southern Bengaluru and the city centre, but also for vehicles from west Bengaluru looking to avoid traffic on K.R. Market Road.

Hours-long traffic jam

Meenakshi S., a resident of Banashankari, regretted taking the K.R. Market Road, as it took her nearly two hours to cover a 9-km stretch to Infantry Road in the heart of the city. "The K.R. Market stretch was particularly bad, with a mix of shoppers and outstation travellers flooding it. I spent at least 30 minutes crossing just this one stretch," she said.

A senior police officer from the East Division, Traffic, told *The Hindu* that weekend congestion was worsened by bus diversions put in place to facilitate white-topping work on J.C. Road. "We diverted buses that usually take J.C. Road to multiple other roads, which became badly clogged on Saturday as many festival shoppers were on the streets," the officer said.

It was not just K.R. Market Road. The diversions caused severe congestion in Shanthinagar, choking Kengal Hanumanthaiya Road, with ripple effect spilling over to Mission Road and K.S. Thimmaiah Road.

Devendra Kumar, a Shanthinagar resident, lamented being stuck on Residency Road for nearly 30 minutes. "Usually, it takes just 10 minutes to reach Cubbon Park from Residency Road, but on Saturday afternoon I was stuck in traffic for 30 minutes. The roads were completely jammed, with vehicles barely moving, this turned into a frustrating wait, testing everyone's patience," he said.

In the eastern part of the city, Mysuru Road near Kengeri saw heavy crowds at the bus station. This, combined with cars leaving Bengaluru for the long weekend, led to major bottlenecks.

Soudhamini N., a professor at a private college who was heading home to Mysuru, said she was stuck in Kengeri for about an hour. A police officer posted at the CBD said weekend crowds had further worsened traffic in the area. Long queues of vehicles were seen along M.G. Road, Brigade Road, Church Street, Central Street, Kamaraj Road, Mayo Hall junction, and Halasuru Road.

In north Bengaluru, Ballari Road and the infamous Hebbal Junction witnessed severe congestion. In east Bengaluru, Old Madras Road, particularly from Benniganahalli Lake to K.R. Puram Bus Stop, saw the worst traffic snarls, further compounded by the Chief Minister's city rounds.

St. Joseph's University's second convocation held, 2,747 students graduate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Students who won gold medals at the convocation ceremony of St. Joseph's University in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

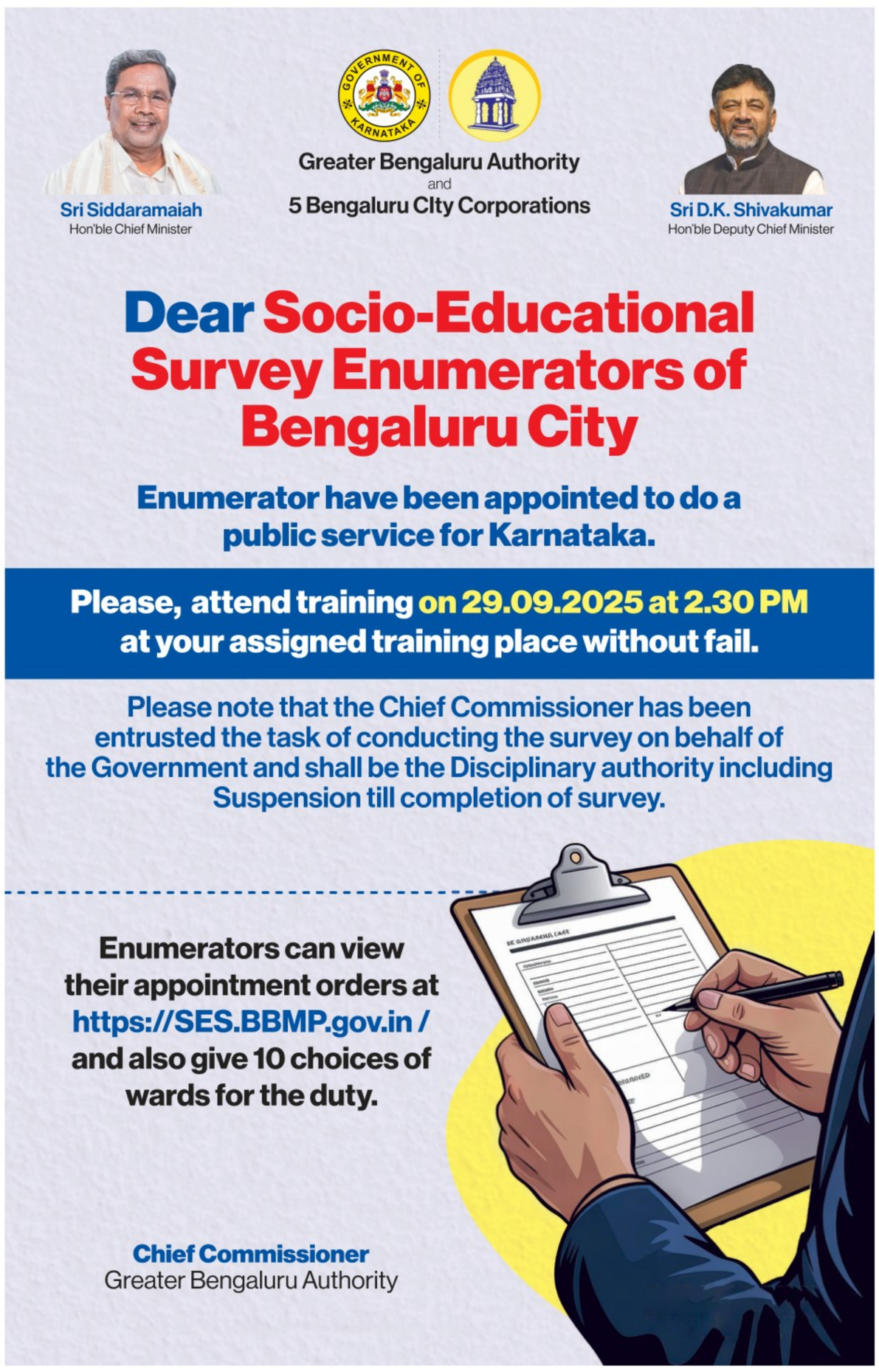
St. Joseph's University held its second annual convocation ceremony on Saturday. This year, a total of 2,747 students graduated, including 2,009 undergraduates and 738 postgraduates.

Among them, 143 rank holders - 99 undergraduates and 44 postgraduates - were recognised by the university.

Moreover, 40 special prizes were awarded to outstanding achievers across academics, NCC, sports, and co-curricular fields.

The event was presided over by Karnataka Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot, alongside Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, and Dr. Jarugu Narasimha Moorthy, director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Thiruvananthapuram.

SNACK LIKE A
CHAMPION!
Crunch your way to better health with Jasprit Bumrah's favorite snack – American pistachios! Packed with essential nutrients, they keep you energized and strong. American pistachios are packed by all major Indian dry fruit and nut brands and are available across the country with all dry fruit retailers and on all e-commerce platforms. Just ask or search for American or California pistachios!
AMERICAN QUALITY PISTACHIOS®
California Grown
AmericanPistachios.in
The POWER of PISTACHIOS
AMERICAN QUALITY PISTACHIOS® California Grown
© 2025 American Pistachio Growers
BUY NOW
Available on all major e-commerce platforms and with key retailers across India.


Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Greater Bengaluru Authority
and
5 Bengaluru CIty Corporations
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Dear Socio-Educational Survey Enumerators of Bengaluru City
Enumerator have been appointed to do a public service for Karnataka.
Please, attend training on 29.09.2025 at 2.30 PM at your assigned training place without fail.
Please note that the Chief Commissioner has been entrusted the task of conducting the survey on behalf of the Government and shall be the Disciplinary authority including Suspension till completion of survey.
Enumerators can view their appointment orders at https://SES.BBMP.gov.in / and also give 10 choices of wards for the duty.
Chief Commissioner
Greater Bengaluru Authority

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

NRI VISWABRAHMIN girl, born & broughtup in Dubai, LLB & LLM from England, presently working as Company Lawyer in Dubai (caste no bar), star Bharani, looking for boys UK/US educated working in Dubai, US or UK only. Contact: 00918943432057.

INTER RACIAL 34 Yr, Hindu, Financially sound Keralite PG IT Professional based in Chennai 1st marriage Annuled. Caste - no bar, Ph : 8281942634.

WELL SETTLED groom for our daughter, 34, 160cm BBA.LLB(Hons), working in Delhi, Ph No: 9742735229

Christian Bride 28'Y Req: groom from India & Abroad MD/MS IAS, Civil Services. Ph: 7892163083

RICH NAIR, graduate, 25 years, pretty and modern girl, raised in UK&USA seeks compatible remarriage proposals, from qualified boys with affluent family background. Call: 001–904–917–0301

DIVORCEE

KIND, BEAUTIFUL 45, well–educated (UK PhD), soft–spoken professor. Seeks well–read, compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR Girl 27 Fair MBBS Father Own Clinic Suitable Doctor Chennai or Any District:7358 638363

HINDU, 25 Years Doctor (PG) girl seeks Groom. Contact : 9677199925. CNB.

SEEKS Doctor Groom for a 28Yrs Naidu, Only child Dental Surgeon MDS, Mother- Govt. Doctor, Father- Retd Manager in Nationalised Bank. Caste No Bar. CT: 9994536542.

HINDU PALLAN Bride Doctor 29 Aswini Mesham Father Mother Doctor Seeks Doctor Bridegroom Pallan Caste Only. Cell: 9443151045 WPP, 9442924441 WPP

PG DOCTOR, BC, 27,174 cm Fair Good looking Seeks suitable MS MD M.Ch DM from unorthodox educated families. Contact. 7200365364

HINDU REDDY Fair, Slim PG Specialist Doctor 34/165 cms in Private Practice from Elite Family.Seeks Suitable Never Married Groom From Elite Family CNB CT:8925640111

Hindu Nadar, 31, 165cms very Fair, Doctor, Cardiology Fellowship. Hailing from highly affluent family. Currently working as a Cardiologist. Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Lives in US. Seeking an upstanding, well qualified, Professional, preferably a Doctor Groom working in USA.
Ct: +91 9791994449
vsajsr@gmail.com

TELUGU NAIDU Doctor Girl 91 Born MBBS, MD. Chennai. Seeking Suitable Doctor Groom. Contact: 80722 14843.

ENGINEER

SEEKING BRAHMIN groom for beautiful very fair brahmin vegetarian odia bride BTECH MBA 37 5'2" Senior Software Consultant Contact Parents 8249215963

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

WANTED SUITABLE groom from good family background for a Bengali, Brahmin girl brought up in Kolkata, pretty, fair, 5', 35, B.Tech, M.S, Manager in a Nationalized Bank. State No Bar. Contact: 9830534899/8240948938.

HINDU, NAIDU, 23yrs, tall, fair, BE, only daughter of Senior Government officer. seeks alliance. WhatsApp 8610192510.

MALAYALAM

VISWAKARMA GOLDSMITH girl, 35/155, Visakham, M.Phil seeks alliance from parents of professionals. 9188198390.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

MALAYALAM

SEEKING A COMPATIBLE PARTNER FOR OUR DAUGHTER

Our daughter, a 31-year-old Hindu Nair/Menon, is a warm and accomplished professional with a strong educational background. She is born under the Pururuttathi star. Her parents are settled in Chennai and hail from a family with roots in Palakkad and Thrissur. Their contact number is **+91 9840823807**.

The girl is currently based in Sydney, Australia, she is well-settled in her career. She is a modern, independent woman who respects her traditions and family values. She has a cheerful personality, enjoys traveling, and values a balanced life. She is 5ft 1inch in height.

We are looking for a suitable alliance for her from a well-educated and family-oriented boy. He should have a stable career and be settled in life, with a good personality. A partner who is based in Australia is preferred.

Interested families, please contact us with the boy's details and a recent photograph.

NRI

GROOM WANTED - NRE NAIR GIRL, 51, MSc, PHD, Never married, US Citizen, Chicago, Caste No Bar, Malayalam Tamil US Residency only.Contact : 9895824803

✔ **HINDU** /SAIVA Pillai /27 /MS/ (IT) / Studied and working @ Melbourne / Data Analyst / Looking suitable Australia settled Bridegroom /WhatsApp: 9790110377/ saiaustralia31@gmail.com.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, RC, 30 MDS, Doctor, 10 Lakhs CT 8138900316

CHRISTIAN COSMOPOLITAN 30 yr MS(US) , Architect beautiful v fair girl working in Chennai looking for a handsome well settled groom from similar background. Call 9884067923 / 9884012383

TAMIL MUSLIM Auditor family Bride 23Yrs BHMS– Homoeopathy Doctor. Wanted Chennai Settled Professional Groom. Whatapp: 7845136035

✔ **MUSLIM SLIM girl 38 yrs, look for qualified, employed, never married Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 26, MBBS, Doctor, 7 lakhs. Contact 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, RC, 35, BSc, Government, 20 lakhs. Ct 8138900487

CATHOLIC VELLALAR 32 /171, MBBS, MPH Step 1 passed in student visa, USA Seeks groom from USA. 9150153743

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA aged 26. End time message.8939250457

SEEKING SUITABLE God-fearing CSI Groom, Teetotaller, (language No Bar) working in Bangalore for Tamil, CSI girl, 24, 174 cm tall, slim, MBA (Christ University), working in Bangalore. WhatsApp: 8892787923.

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM Sunni, B.Arch at NIT and PG at IIT (under studying – Jun'26). Height 5 ft & Age 24, White, beautiful, Middle class, Chennai based, Thowheed. Practicing five times namaz & read Quran regularly. No Sirkh and No Biddah. Interested to pursue Ph.d and job. Expectations: Tamil Muslim, Pure Thowheed, simple Marriage with Valima as per Prophet 's way. Five times Namaz must & read Quran regularly, No sirkh and no biddah, Clean habits, Professional degree with good jobs. Chennai settled, Preferable PG /NIT/IIT. Send Biodata to Whatsapp 9444804365**

CHRISTIAN, 31 ,Catholic, MS, private, 30 lakhs, 8137 003550.

CHRISTIAN, 26, Nadar, MD, Doctor, 10 lakhs, 8138 901281.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, RC, 31, MBA, 20 lakhs, private, 8138 900316.

CSI CHRISTIAN girl 28, B.Tech (Civil), MS (Stru Engg), Taiwan, Working in Taiwan, Willing to relocate, Looking for well–educated groom preferably Nadar. Contact: 82205 83936

THIRUNELVELI SAIVA Pillai girl, 25, BE(CSc) wkg in MNC as Software Engineer. Parents invite proposals from respectable, strict vegetarian families of same caste. Looking for a well educated B.E/B.Tech grooms wkg in same profession and settled in bangalore. Pl Share Horoscope. sk_pillai@outlook.com 6364789344

HINDU SC/AD, 39/163cm fair, BTech (CSE), SWP, Moolam Dhansu, never married, Chennai seeks proffesionally qualified never married groom below 42yrs from India / abroad. Caste No Bar. Contact: 87545 66571

SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 9498313625

HINDU, MUDHALIYAR, 30 Private 10 Lakhs. CT 8138900412

HINDU, CHETTIAR, 30, MD, Doctor 30 lakhs. CT 8138901281

HINDU, 27, Intercaste, BE, Govt job,15 lakhs. CT 9048444858

DKV 33YRS Fair B.Tech MBA IIT Working MNC 24 Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Match CNB Ph: 9940507235

Hindu -Tamil, Viswakarma, 28, BE, MS(UK) with work visa, Seeks Bridegroom in UK. Contact: 73055-28980.

MUDALIAR 25, M Tech, 162cm Good Looking well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct.8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU, 26, Nadar, CMA, UK, Business, 3 crores. Ct 8138900412

HINDU, 23, Gounder, B.Arch, Business, 10 crores. Ct 8138901281

DESIGN ENGINEER Hindu Girl B E (Mech) M S (Adv Manufacturing) 28 157 fair 4 years experience at Singapore and Germany, working in a MNC Bengaluru seeks Professional Groom 9363631558

CASTE NO Bar, 27yrs, MBBS, MS, Well Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 29yrs, BE, MBA, 2.5lakhs pm, Elite business family. Ct: 9380791999 / 9841329471

HINDU NADAR. B.Tech, MBA, 26/166, Good Looking, Smart Entrepreneur Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom based in Mumbai/Chennai. 8424058261

HINDU ADI–DRAVIDAR MS/Doctor Girl 28Yrs Seeks Doctor with PG Degree Caste NoBar.Parents Doctor 9444651852

THEVAR, 31/164cm, Fair, Civil Servant (UPSC - IRMS (A) / Southern Railway), Native: Tirunelveli, Mother: DRO - Revenue Dept. seeks Groom, well educated family with Medical/ Civil Servant / Successful Entrepreneurs. Caste no bar from equal community. Ct: 94878 35626

CNB, 27YRS, MBBS, MD Well Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

HINDU MUDALIYAR 27/152/fair slim pursuing MD Radiology Seeks groom preferably Doctors. Religion & caste no bar. Contact: 9445399103

REDIYAR, 31YRS, B.Tech, MBA,Well Educated Family background, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9710093999

HINDU, THEVAR, 33, BE,Denmark, private, 60 lakhs, 7356 483111.

HINDU, NADAR, 26, CMA, 2 Crores, private, 8138 900412.

VELLALAR VEG 40 MA 172cm CEO Pvt London Seeks High Profile UK only Geetham 9884858014

VANNIYAR, (26/164), LLM, Good Looking, Raghu, Kethu Chennai seeks suitable groom. Ct. 9940655572

BEAUTIFUL, WARM 31, 165cm, well–educated (UK) professional. Affluent family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call or WA 9345 634 365.

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED

Match for a Doctor and Entrepreneur

A highly accomplished and well-educated doctor and entrepreneur who skillfully manages educational institutions seeks a suitable groom. We are looking for a post-graduate gentleman, aged 28-30, who is well-settled in his business. The groom must be from an ultra-rich family and living in Chennai.

We desire a partner with a good heart and a positive attitude. He should be a compassionate, kind-hearted, and family-oriented individual who has a modern outlook on life. Caste is not a concern.

Interested parties can contact at : +91 89250 95333

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

✔ **ROMAN CATHOLIC/30 yrs/180 cms/ Permanent resident Sweden/BE,MS/ Product Manager. Proposals invited for our son from girls with a similar background, of age 25–29 yrs, based in EU and/ or willing to relocate. Ct: email sjm.val7@gmail.com/ 6381070174**

EDUCATED SENIOR Citizen, Specialist Professional extensively travelled in India and abroad. Maintains excellent youthful health, Vitality and self-discipline who carries Socio Cultural Economic interests, solicit proposal from Educated disciplined very fair lady below 60 yrs. spmcharities@gmail.com

SEEK A Bangalore based, v.fair, tall, virtuous, PG Doctor or well edu, south indian bride (28–30 yrs) for a DM doctor (Tamil / 33 years / Kongu Vellalar /185 cm / Hastham / clean habits): Parents:9342529547 / 9072118800

DIVORCEE

SINCERE WIDOWER 50, 173cm, successful business owner, responsible father (2 sons, 21+). Seeks warm, understanding compatible bride. Religion/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

ENGINEER

WRKG GIRL (preferably in Bglr) for Dhiman Brahmin Boy 167cm, Nov 1997, B Des (NID), Lead Engr (HCL Bglr) 8130554694

FINANCE / BANKING

32 YEARS. Manager in a PSB. Atheist. Looking for financially independent, intellectually inclined Tamil/ Malayali woman as life partner. Ctct: 9789227517

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

LOOKING FOR a well–qualified, smart, Brahmin but liberal girl for a 38Y/178cm(Height), Computer Science engineer from IIT–Delhi in Delhi–NCR. Contact 9560755556.

MALAYALAM

REMARRIAGE, WELL placed Nair youth, legally divorced, 45/174, Government Officer, Thiruvananthapuram, Elite family. One son (not with him). Seeking marriage proposals from childless ladies. Caste no bar. Contact: 9846562565.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 33, BE, Engineer, 20 lakhs. CT 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, PENTECOST, 27, BE, Private, Australia, 2 crores. Contact 7356483111

TAMIL MUSLIM 32/180cm,BE, MBA, SWE, MNC, seeks Employed Bride. Ct: 9444008160

AD CHRISTIAN 34, Doctor studying PG, Pondicherry seeks bride, Contact : 9443358383

CHRISTIAN, 27, Catholic, M.arch, 15lakhs, 8138 009235

29YR 178CM 75kg MS UK Work in Autodesk Bangalore seeks Tamil RC working girl. Mob 9597259646

TAMIL MUSLIM 40/165, B.sc, MBA (Restaurant Manager, Pondy),Divorcee No Child, seeks bride. Ct:9345614467

TAMIL MUSLIM, 30/170, BE Mech Engineer in Auto OEM, Chennai seeks Tamil Muslim bride, Ct: 9444297042

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Tamil, BE, MS (USA), 30/173cm, working in USA, Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9841234598

HINDU, NADAR, MS, Doctor 10 lakhs. CT 7356483111

HINDU, NAIDU, 25, M.Sc, Business 10Lakhs. CT 8138009144

EliteMatrimony
Personalized & Confidential Service for the Elites

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

KARUNEEGAR, 33, 175 cms, Divorced, Software Professional. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 29, 158 cms, MBBS, MD. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC VELLALAR, 24, 165 cms, MBBS. Lives in Madurai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 28, 178 cms, B.Tech, Software Professional. Lives in US. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off and lives in Hyderabad. Looking suitable match from US, preferably Iyer. Contact: 6366448344

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 29, 178 cms, M.S. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 26, 183 cms, MS. Lives in Sivakasi. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

Largest Pool of True Elite Profiles | Dedicated & Experienced Relationship Managers | Most Successful Elite Service | Pioneers of Elite Matrimony Service in India

www.elitematrimony.com | Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

DIVORCEE

REMARRIAGE, Vanni-Gemini 45, goodlooking & habit, MD(N), own 5600sqft hospital + Govt 1.5L/m, Villupuram agaram, caste no bar seeks suitable bride Contact: 7200004194

RICH NAIDU 43yrs/174cm, 69kg, Property worth 25Cr, Income 3 Lak/pm, Quali., Status & CNB. Ct: 9962996999

DOCTOR

SUNNI URDU Doctor Parents seek a bride from a religious educated family, preferably a medical professional, for their doctor son, fair 26/178cm, pursuing MD postgraduation. Email– absash25@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

Chennai based Thiyya Divorcee 65 / 165/ M.A retired own independent house Chennai landed properties Kerala seeks bride. Ph: 9840169532.

MBA / CA / ICWA

Hindu Maithili Brahmin Boy, 34 Yrs, 180 cms, fair, single built, MBA, running Own Business, Bengaluru based (Parents Hyderabad based) seeks Bride, similar Educated, 24-33 Yrs. Cont. Whatsapp: 7499631998, Email: arun.aarav201@gmail.com

SAURASTRA

SAURASTRA 39 1st Marraige CNB Hastam Kanni MBA Finance Chennai 1.27L Pm, Seeks Suitable Bride. 9444735240

TAMIL

HINDU, UDAYAR, 29, B.Arch, Business, 1 crore. CT 8138900312

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Manager working in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. Call: 9940507235

GAVARA NAIDU Affluent family Chennai 29/165 ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Business, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram, CNB. Call: 9841097110

RICH MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9962791888

HINDU SC AD Magam 28/ 174 B.Tech, MBA Pvt Sector from wealthy family seeks good looking girl. 9940247835

TAMIL

WELL–EDUCATED ARCOT Mudaliar, Aged 36, Residing in US West Coast. Working as Sr Manager in a Tech firm with MBA & MSC from reputed Ivy League & Singapore universities.Seeking well–educated & driven bride with shared values , preferably based in US. Call (or) Whatsapp: +65 90610927

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 28yrs 177cm, B.Tech, 2lakhs pm, Elite business family K.A.Ramannadar 9380791999

WANTED BRIDE for Tall Fair Handsome Groom,28/183cm, BE(ECE) from respectable Sozhiya Vellala Pillai/ Thuluva Vellala Mudaliar Family Seeks a Suitable Bride Age 21 to 25 yrs from Similar Community. Birth Star Mirugashesam 4th Padam Horoscope Matching Essential Call: 99629 23020/WhatsApp

HINDU, NAIDU, separated, 30, USA, Private, 50 lakhs. Contact 8138900139

HINDU, MUDHALIYAR, 28, MD, Doctor, 25lakhs. Contact 8138900312

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, 26, MBA, 25 lakhs, Private. Contact 8137003550

HINDU–34YRS/BE/SWE/172CMS/25LP/SC/ AYILLAM. SETTLED in Bangalore, financially stable. Looking for suitable match. Con:9845401461.

PILLAI 38/BE, Swathi, CTO US Company, Well Settled N.V. Seeks Bride CNB. Coimbatore 9843252888

HINDU MUDALIAR 34/165 M.Tech Class 4 Marine Engr, seeks bride from any caste & good family. Ct:9791507303

HINDU NADAR Age – 29, BE, ECE, Cuddalore Native, MNC Job – Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride. No Brokers Ph : 7358180408 / 9442912405

TAMIL BRAHMIN Intercaste 29, 176cm BE working in MNC Bengaluru as AI Specialist Earning 27 LPA Seeks Educated Employed Girl from Respectable Family Caste No Bar 9952914077

NADAR DIVORCEE, 37 yrs, no Kids, M.E., Ph.D., Proff. Engg. College, Chennai 1 Lakh pm seeks suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9443269548

CASTE NO Bar, 28yrs, B.Tech, Elite industrial background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Cont:6385293227

HINDU SC AD Poosam Kadagam Rasi 33/168/DICE/BE(Pursuing)NLCI LTD/3.6L per Annum seeks suitable bride Contact: 9443084928

HINDU NADAR 29/178 B.E MBA well settled MNC Chennai seeks educated good looking bride.Cont:9445663691

VELLALA PILLAI Boy 37/172, Fair, B.E S/W Eng(Canada) Trivandrum, seeks alliance. 9994724482, 9994724483

HINDU TAMIL Nadar 45 B.E., Carleton University IISc 99943-51766, vimalkrishna@tamilfilmmakerspro.com

LIFE PARTNER Age 45-55 Wanted for Widower 66 Gowder B.E. Madurai. Widow or Divorced also Ct: 9791556546.

DKV Divorcee 44 / 1.5 LPM DGM PSU Son with Mother Seeks Issueless Girl CNB 8903778148.

MUDALIAR M.COM 47 1st Marriage 20 Laks PA. Own House Chennai. Seeks Mudaliar 1st Marriage Girl 9444001582

AGE 46, MBA, Viruchigam, Kettai, 1st Marriage, Chennai, Own House,. Wanted suitable Bride. 9383002003.

TAMIL

DKV 2nd Marriage 53 / 3.5 LPM Sr. GM B'lore Seeks Issueless Girl CNB 9994567839.

TAMIL YADAVA Boy, MBA, 37 Ayiliyam, TCS Chennai seeks yadava bride within TN, Sozhia Vellalar, Mudaliyar bride considerable., Contact through Tamil. 9965673354, 7373386474.

AGE 47, Good Financial Prospects, Need A Well–Off Individual Bride, No Age Restriction Ct: 9884671173

VANNIAKULAKSHTRIAR GROOM 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E, M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 15laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521.

HINDU NADAR, 28yrs, MBBS MD, 2lakhs pm, well educated Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:9380791999/ 9841329471

HINDU, PILLAI, 26, BE, Engineer, 40lakhs, 8138 900312

HINDU, 28, Yadav, Msc, private, 1crore, 8138009144.

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

BE VANNIYAR 43 Working in IT as PgM. Looking for bride from a decent, educated family. 9840196320

Hindu Maravar, 30, 160cm, Ayilyam, Kadagam, Qual: M.D. (Anesthesia), Job: Asst. Surgn. Govt Hospital,Native: Madurai. Looking for cultured homely understanding partner preferably MBBS/MD/MS. Contact: 8190027068, niruasoke@gmail.com

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 27yrs, BE, MS, Working in Germany, Elite. Raman Nadar Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIAR 30/180 Handsome MBBS, MD, DM, Own Hospital, 5000000.PA, Elite Fmly, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu 32yrs, B.Tech,working in Govt, well educated family in Chennai Contact:6385293227

SC AD 28/M.Tech., Engr.(MNC) 1,50,000/– pm Seeks Bride. Well Educated Family. Ph :9444993417 / 7397674481

BRAHMIN IYER Boy,31, Magam, B. Tech, Reputed IT Co., Chennai, Seeks Brahmin Graduate Girl. Ct: 9940352807

IYENGAR VADHULA Krithigai1 Btec M.S H1B 35 Proptied sks California based fair Girl Any Brahmin 9884722785

IYER KASYAB Barani 39/180 Mutual Divorcee Double Masters,Ph.D Thesis (Germany) Employed Germany Seeks Qualified Unmarried Bride Willing Relocate Germany 9444551216/ 04426861097

TAMIL IYER Groom seeks suitable girl below 40yrs/5.7ft. Boy working as R&D Engg. Fair & Good looking. Ph 98402 11194

BRAHMIN IYER 32 MTech 182cm Own School Chennai Seeks Educated Iyer Bride Geetham 9884858014

SUITABLE BRIDE for 35 year male employed, Saiva Pillai, good package, clean habits. Caste no bar. Vegetarian. Bank employee / Teaching profession preferred. Contact: 9884053339

TAMIL

Hindu 58yrs/165cm Central Govt. Jr. Engineer, Salary Rs.1.50 Lakhs/PM Never married, Own house, seeks Bride Divorcee or Widow. Ct:8778630870

BRIDE WANTED

MS (CSE), 30/180cm, fair, good–looking groom from affluent & well–educated Hindu Agamudayar family.

Successful IT professional leading a popular global tech firm based in Chennai. Well–settled with high income and a strong reputation.

Looking for a well–educated, good–looking, family–oriented bride (below 29 yrs) from a Tamil family.

Open to equal communities with similar values and background.

Ph: +91 78458 21205

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom

Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only

CT: 93842 76066

Protestant Christian Bride Wanted

No Dowry | No Caste | No Broker Affluent Christian family Seeking a God-fearing, fair, tall, slim, good - looking, well-educated, and employed Christian girl for their son (Teetotaler, 27yrs / 182cm/ 12LPA), B.E (Mech), M.E (Energy), Design Engineer in MNC(JV), Chennai, originally from Tirunelveli.) Tamil Parents: Central/State Govt. officers, with 15 years abroad experience Sibling : Sister, Engineering student. Contact : **V. Christopher @ +91 9486815635 (Call / WhatsApp)**

TELUGU

AGE 45 MCA Sadhayam,Kumbha rasi Fair Software Engineer seeks suitable Bride, caste no bar. PH: 9894670293

✔ **REDDY 1984 (41 yrs) 6'4 (191 cms) Issueless Divorcee MDS Dentist Working in Private 100000/MTH Residing in Chennai CNB Ct 9384003929**

DIVORCED 49/167 Pvt Co, Bald head, No issues, 10 Acre agricultural land, Caste No Bar Chennai. 9790271078

Kamma Naidu BE, MS (USA) 29years Chennai seeks doctor bride from same caste, honourable family. 98404 46677

KAMMAVAR NAIDU Good Looking Engineer, 170cm Road Contractor Seeks Graduate Girl Aged 25 From Decent Family & prefers to stay in chennai. +919176727247

URDU

SMU 29/165CM BE working in Germany seeks educated practising muslimah from respectable family. 7845152165

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Australia All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. 8248757840

TAMIL

VANNIYAR, BDS, 32, Revathi, Employed, Middle class family, Groom from same Community needed. 98409 61251

Tamil Mudaliar, 30 years, M.S.from USA, Working in an US company in Qatar as an Environmental Engineer, Looking for a well educated groom (Cosmopolitan).
CONTACT:
Mobile: 00966500268681
Whatsapp: 0097455626509

GROOM WANTED
Agamudi Mudaliyar 26/169
Punar Posa/ Mithuna BSC Cardiac technology working in Kuwait seek Boy
8939380530

✔ **Hindu Intercaste** (Saivapillai/ Brahmin) 28/185 cm/ MBA working in MNC Bengaluru seeks suitable Professional well settled Groom from respectable Family Contact 9841535955

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR 29 yrs/164/ Fair, Beautiful, BTech, Upper Middle Class family seeks groom Healthy, Qualified, Better employed, Clean habits Contact: 94436 10323.

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 US Bank/IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40LPA Own House. Seeks blw 37yr. CALL / WA : 9442126376

SC 31/167 BE &MBA not working Rishaba/Karthigai.Caste no bar. upper middle class. Suitable bridegroom.Contact:9444079817

MUDALIAR 26/173 cm MBA working in Pvt Bank 6.7LPA well educated and well settled family seeks groom from similar community. Ph: 94442 49675

HINDU SC AD, Poorattathi/ Meenam, Age 37, M.C.A Working in a MNC company, seeking Educated Groom from a good family background, below 40 Years from any Tamil Speaking Community. Contact: 9840107770, 9952930893.

GROOM WANTED for Vathima Brahmin Girl 33, BSc+MBA Fair Energetic, Working in B'lore, Novo Nordisk a Good Salary Sub–Sect No Bar. Age Difference 0–4yrs Ct:9884222614/ 9677019636

TAMIL

SC / ST Community Girl (Hindu) 30/155 cm B.Tech (Chemical Engg) seeks groom from State Govt / Central Govt / Pvt organisation. Contact : 99692 28297 / 98196 30507

Iyer Bharatwaj Aswini 30 MTech MNC Bangalore 60 LPA seek Boys Contact: 9444822816

SC 40/165 M.Sc, M.P.H (USA) working in Jordan, looking for a suitable groom preferably working in Middle East. Caste and religion no bar.9884439700

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 26yrs, M.com, CA, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU, 31YRS, BE, MS (UC BERKELEY) Well Educated Elite business family Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:6385293227

WANTED TELUGU groom for our daughter from reputed corporate family. Age 33 – 34. WA 9894579061. No reps.

KAMMA NAIDU, 29 Yrs, Fair, Good Looking Educated Employed Bride Seeks Understanding Decent Looking Well Educated Employed in Chennai / Bengaluru IT Preferred Speak Tamil Also. Contact: spkvpsv15@gmail.com

TELUGU

NAIDU 26/162 Fair Beautiful, ME, QE, MNC, USA,70000. USD.PA, Well Settled, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

KAMMA NAIDU, 33yrs, M.Tech, Elite family in Hyderabad. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9710093999

KAMMAVAR NAIDU Homely Looking Girl Aged 25 Epulla Kotharam, BE/MBA 164cm Seeks PG Business Professional Well Settled groom Below 30Yrs Decent Family & prefers to stay in chennai. +919176727247

GAVARA NAIDU Good Looking B.E/ 160cm Ht/ 42 Homemaker spinster Seeks well settled PG Professional Groom below 45. +919176727247

GAVARA NAIDU Good Looking B.Tech/ MBA/160cm Ht working in MNC, Aged 40, Spinster Seeks well settled Professional Groom below45. +919176727247

Balija Naidu 27yrs/172cm, M.Sc (C.S) Visakam 3rd Padam, Thulam Rasi, Fair, Seeks Professionaly Qualified groom.Ct: 9445229864/ 044-42875069

TELUGU YADAVA Homely Looking Bride Aged 25 Cosmetologist, Wheatish 155cm Seeks graduate or PG business professional well settled groom aged below 30 with decent family &prefers to stay in chennai. +919176727247

TELUGU

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

Naidu, Swathy / Thulam 31/173 well-educated & Cultured, MS, employed in a reputed MNC, USA (H1B Visa). seeks suitable groom from a good family background.

indiraramesh92@gmail.com
rameshcgp@yahoo.com

44 Yrs /165cm/ SWE/ Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar. seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM girl, 94born ,164cm , B.Tech ,never married,working in PSU bank Mumbai.U.P.based family well settled in Rajasthan. Father retired Addl.Director. #9461179587

SEEKING PROFESSIONALLY qualified Sunni Muslim boy for my daughter. She is a doctor (age 28 and 166 cm) , now doing MD and settled in Sydney, Australia. Please send biodata first on +61402612128

MUSLIM MOTHER, SEEKING 45–50 yrs Groom with Clean Habits & Permanent Income for Govt. Employee Bride, Ist marriage, 43 Yrs, Ct: 79048 81441

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS

KERALA BASED Travel & Tourism firm seeks investors for business expansion. Travelvava 99618 28324

BUSINESS FOR SALE

13 Years Old, TV Channel, is for Sale. Contact Owner at 89251 61021.

FINANCE

CORPORATE FUNDING, Business Loan Above 10 CR, South India. 7358739109

SHARES / INVESTMENTS

NRI'S MAY avail our "Fund Management Services" to Grow their Investments by Investing in Global Forex Markets. Contact: 9791123304

CM pulls up civic officials over potholes, poor waste management

Siddaramaiah has given civic agencies a one-month deadline to repair roads and make them motorable

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After his government faced public outrage and a social media backlash, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah conducted city rounds on Saturday to inspect roads and civic works and came down heavily on engineers, contractors, and civic officials over pothole-ridden roads, unattended waste, and dereliction of duty.

Visibly upset over the poor state of solid waste management, Mr. Siddaramaiah directed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to issue a notice to Raghavendra Prasad, Chief Engineer of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML). The directive came after he visited Ward number 23's solid waste collection centre, where he found garbage strewn outside despite ample space inside.

With potholes multiplying during the monsoon, the Chief Minister gave civic agencies a one-month deadline to repair roads and make them motorable. He stressed that pothole filling must be carried out with lasting quality, not through temporary patchwork.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inspecting roads during his city rounds in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister's directions

- **Windsor Manor** Ensure smooth stormwater drainage; there should be no water stagnation
- **Ring Road:** Trace and penalise those dumping debris in CCTV-free zones; seize vehicles.
- **Metro work:** Maintain service roads; ensure smooth drainage; repair damaged white-topped roads immediately
- **Hennur Flyover:** Clear old debris with overgrown plants within 24 hours
- **Hennur-Bagalur Road:** Repair potholes on roads approved for white-topping

Inspects key roads

Mr. Siddaramaiah began his inspection at Windsor Manor Bridge and covered Hennur-Bagalur Road, Benniganahalli Flyover, Old Madras Road, Panathur Road, and Kaadubeesanahalli, where he reviewed asphalting works.

He inspected potholes along the stretch from Iblur Junction to Silk Board junction. At Panathur T-Cross, the Chief Minister noticed large heaps of construction debris dumped along the roadside. Ordering CCTV camera installation and deployment of BBMP marshals, he directed the Police Commissioner and the Corporation Commissioner to take strict action against offenders responsible for illegal dumping.

In the Hennur-Bagalur division, Mr. Siddaramaiah ordered the suspension of an executive engineer after finding that potholes were being filled with gravel instead of proper asphalt.

He warned that such negligence would not be tolerated.

On Hennur Road, where white-topping is in progress, he insisted that contractors must remain accountable for road maintenance until project completion.

With the government spending ₹13 crore per kilometre on the 5-km stretch, he gave the contractor one month to finish the work and ensure the roads were free of potholes.

Metro-related damage

Raising concerns about Metro construction works, the Chief Minister noted that neglected service roads, blocked drains, and water stagnation had damaged freshly white-topped stretches. He directed immediate repairs and proper upkeep of service roads.

At one point along the Ring Road, spotting old construction debris dumped in areas without CCTV coverage, Mr. Siddaramaiah stopped his convoy and instructed officials to trace the offenders, seize their vehicles, and file cases. Angrily questioning civic and traffic officials, he asked, "Do you walk around the city with your eyes closed? Can you not see waste being dumped on the road?"

Concluding his inspection, Mr. Siddaramaiah issued a stern warning that engineers, contractors, and commissioners would be held directly accountable for lapses in road maintenance, pothole filling, and waste management.

'Civic chiefs will be held accountable'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday warned that the newly-appointed corporation commissioners and chief engineers would be held accountable for poor waste management in their respective jurisdictions.

"Garbage has been left unattended at several spots along the roads. Instructions have been issued to clear the waste immediately, failing which action will be taken against the commissioner and engineers concerned," Mr. Siddaramaiah said before setting out on city rounds to inspect infrastructure works.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister came across construction debris that had been lying unattended for years, with weeds growing as tall as a person.

Mr. Siddaramaiah pulled up officials for negligence and questioned them sharply. He found debris dumped at several other locations and directed officials to ensure immediate clearance and to install CCTV cameras to curb such illegal dumping.

City residents perform puja to 'pothole gods'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Frustrated with the rising number of potholes in Bengaluru, a citizens' group in east Bengaluru performed a puja on Saturday, praying that the potholes do not claim any lives. This comes as the city's civic bodies have begun filling potholes across Bengaluru.

While such symbolic acts have been carried out in other parts of the city earlier, the Bharathinagar Residents' Forum chose to treat a pothole as a deity and offered prayers to it. Around 20 to 25 members gathered on Webster Road, where they decorated the pothole with chrysanthemums and rose petals. The group even hired a priest to conduct the ritual with full religious chants.

Surendra Ravi, president of the residents' forum, said, "There are nearly 100 potholes in Cox Town alone, and the repairs carried out so far have been substandard."

Residents performing pothole puja on Webster road at Cox Town in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

"The potholes reappear within just days of filling, highlighting the poor quality of the civic body's work. This patchwork approach clearly isn't working," he said.

He further added that the civic body was compelled to take up repairs only because of media attention and public criticism. "It is unfortunate that the administration acts only when there is an outcry and not on its own initiative," he said.

Mr. Ravi pointed out that several people in the area have been injured due to potholes. In response, the residents themselves have started a pothole-filling drive, which they plan to continue if civic authorities fail to act.

"We performed a 'homa puja' to the 'Pothole Gods' in desperation, believing it might protect us from injury or death. Beyond that, we will continue to fill potholes ourselves as much as we can," he added.

Namma Metro commuters hit by WhatsApp ticketing glitch

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Metro passengers have been facing inconvenience since Friday (September 26, 2025) morning after the WhatsApp ticketing system developed glitches, displaying a pop-up message that the service was under maintenance. The disruption left many commuters, who rely on the feature for its ease of use, queuing at counters for tickets.

Passengers waiting to take the metro trains. K. MURALI KUMAR

For many, the WhatsApp chatbot has been the preferred way to book tickets as it avoids waiting at queues and does not require daily use of a metro card. However, since the glitch began, passengers have been forced to turn to manual purchases.

"I usually travel from Peenya to Infantry Road three days a week. Since I don't use the Metro every day, WhatsApp ticketing is the most convenient option. But from Friday morning, it stopped working and I had to stand in a long queue to get a ticket," said Jayadeva Bolar, a commuter who has used the service for over a year.

Under maintenance

When passengers attempt to use the WhatsApp ticketing chatbot, they receive the automated message: "This service is currently under maintenance. We'll be back soon. Thank you for your patience."

A senior official of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) clarified to *The Hindu* that the problem did not originate from the corporation's end.

"The issue is not with BMRCL but with WhatsApp. We have been informed it is related to maintenance, and we are hopeful it will be resolved at the earliest," the official said.

Since its launch in November, 2022, WhatsApp ticketing has been a flagship initiative for BMRCL. The corporation had claimed Namma Metro was the first transit system in the world to introduce a chatbot-based QR ticketing service. The chatbot offers commuters the option to converse in English and Kannada, buy QR tickets, recharge metro cards, access fare details, plan journeys, and find departure timings.

ONDC

To strengthen digital access, BMRCL has enabled ticketing through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Tickets are now available via nine consumer apps, besides the Namma Metro app, Paytm, and the WhatsApp chatbot (8105556677).

State police chief for enhanced coordination to combat wildlife-related law and order issues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To curb rising cases of man-animal conflict in urban areas bordering forests, leading to loss of lives, the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police has directed jurisdictional police to step up preventive action, ensure law and order, strengthen coordination, and enhance community outreach.

In a standing order issued earlier this month,

M.A. Saleem

the State police chief M.A. Saleem directed the jurisdictional police working in the areas bordering forest to improve preventive and quick response, better coordination and community outreach programmes.

Several cases

The order came in the wake of increasing incidents related to wildlife, including the recent incident of angry villagers locking up forest officials in a cage, poisoning of a tigress and its four cubs at M.M. hills sanctuary in June this year and several cases of wildlife hunting.

Elaborating on the measures to be taken, Mr. Saleem said, "Jurisdictional police bordering forest area, apart from intensifying patrolling, should set up checkposts at strategic locations to check on illegal activities and prevent unauthorised entry into the forest areas, especially after dusk."

"The jurisdictional police should have coordination meeting and set up community contacts and village committees to gather intelligence and keep an eye on illegal activities. The police should coordinate with the Forest Department in their capture and rescue operations and provide escort services whenever needed," he added.

Mr. Saleem directed police to make use of drone technology and wireless communication for law and order during man-animal conflict.

Mysuru Dasara: Air show, traditional tonga rides enliven royal city

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The famed Dasara celebrations in Mysuru on Saturday saw multiple events including an air show and rides on the city's iconic Shah Pasand tonga. The crowds swelled as more arrived on the weekend to watch the celebrations.

Sarang

In a display that left the city spellbound, the Sarang Helicopter Display Team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) performed over the Bannimantap Grounds.

As the helicopters swirled and glided making various formations besides painting the sky with colourful smoke, there was a roar of appreciation from the public who cheered the team. The Sarang is the brand ambassadors of the IAF.

The heritge tonga ride was held as part of Mysuru Dasara on Saturday exploring the landmark monuments of the city. M.A. SRIRAM

25 couples

On the other hand, as many as 25 couples explored the city's landmark monuments riding the iconic Shah Pasand carriages during the Heritage Tonga Ride on Saturday.

Organised by the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, in association with the Department of Tourism, the event was open to couple clad in traditional attire in what was a blending of tradition with heritage exploration.

The 25 couples took part in the event that was organized not only to spread greater awareness on conservation of heritage but popularise traditional attire.

The reason the horse-drawn carriages were used for the heritage ride was that Mysuru was known for tongas till the 1970s and were gradually supplanted by motorised vehicles.

Tourism day

The city also saw World Tourism Day celebrated on Saturday, with stakeholders calling for greater promotion of the city as a destination for all seasons.

A septuagenarian and her bid to preserve the legacy of Dasara dolls

Akilandeshwari J.
BENGALURU

For Lalitha Prasad, 70, Dasara is not just a festival to display dolls, but an occasion to make dolls herself. Over the past 15 years, she has handcrafted more than 1,500 dolls on over 20 different themes, ranging from Yoga and Surya Namaskara to depictions of women critics, marriage ceremonies, mythology, and history.

Her cotton-stuffed dolls have hand-stitched costumes and jewellery, including minute details like earrings and bindi. Ms. Prasad makes new dolls every year and painstakingly arranges them at her house in Bengaluru. Though she has received offers to display her dolls both outside the State and the country, she has turned them down and continues to display them only at her house during the Navaratri festival.

Lalitha Prasad with the cotton-stuffed dolls she made at her residence in Poornaprajna Layout Uttarahalli in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Not just making new dolls and displaying them, but preserving them for years is also a key task that requires a lot of work as the dolls have to be restitched and repacked after the celebrations are over.

Ms. Prasad's daughter, Rashmi Manohar, said that making these dolls was her mother's great passion. "She talks to her dolls, she sings for them. She sees them not as objects, but as carriers of stories and traditions.

The main reason she puts this much effort in making the dolls is to make sure future generations understand what Dasara dolls, known as Pattada Gombe, truly signify, and the legacy that they carry," Ms. Manohar said.

Despite health and age-related challenges, including recurring back and shoulder pain, Ms. Prasad continues to nurture her craft. Her daughter admits that the family has requested her to slow down, but her dedication remains constant. "For her, this is not just an art form, but a way of keeping culture that fosters creativity and community spirit alive," Ms. Manohar said.

Guarantee schemes helped women financially, says study

It was found that 91% of respondents used the money received or saved from the guarantees for purchasing food, supplementing the family diet; 84% affirmed that the schemes eased the financial burden of their families

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

An independent study has shown a large number of women reporting that the Karnataka government's five guarantee schemes have helped reduce the financial stress on their families.

The mixed-methodology survey, led by independent policy consultant Tara Krishnaswamy, in collaboration with Lokniti-CSDS, Bangalore University, Tumkur University and Indus Action, was conducted over a period of one year. It covered around 6,300 women across 15 districts in the State, 84% of whom affirmed that the schemes eased their families' financial burden. Around 89% affirmed that it helped their financial upliftment.

"In addition to the ₹2,000 from Gruha Lakshmi, over 90% saved up to ₹1,000 per month due to Gruha Jyoti, and up to ₹1,000 per week from Shakti," read the report, which also showed that 27% repaid loans using savings from the five guarantees.

The study found that 19% women found a better-paying job or took up a job due to zero ticket travel offered by Shakti scheme,

Benefits of all five schemes combined

- Financial upliftment: 85% respondents
- Improved food security: 95% respondents
- Increased access to healthcare: 90% respondents

Scheme-wise impact

- Anna Bhagya 88% families eat more meals or more quantity in meals; 83% beneficiaries now get better diet & nutrition
- Gruha Lakshmi 95% feel financially uplifted
- Gruha Jyothi 87% saved up to ₹1,000 per month
- Yuva Nidhi 28% used it to gain skills.
- Shakti 65% beneficiaries travel more, 83% access better healthcare, 82% saved up to ₹500 per week

Gaps that still persist

- Anna Bhagya: Nomadic Tribes, PVTGs, waste pickers, sanitation workers need one-off inclusion with new enrolments closed
- Gruha Lakshmi: Erratic disbursements hurt financial planning
- Gruha Jyothi: Bills format hard to decipher
- Shakti: Limited coverage, frequency & number of buses
- Yuva Nidhi: Only 7% surveyed availed scheme

Boost to nutrition

According to the study, 91% of respondents use the money received or saved from the guarantees for purchasing food, supplementing the family diet with essentials such as grains, pulses, vegetables, fruits, eggs and meat. Around 95% of the women stated that their families ingested better nutrition and improved diets due to the benefits, while 90% reported increased access to healthcare.

Over 80% of women reported improvements in personal nutrition, own healthcare and personal financial security, and more than 50% respondents engaged in furthering their education.

Scheme-wise highlights

According to the study, Gruha Lakshmi and Shakti schemes have specifically contributed to the empowerment and independence of female beneficiaries.

Highlighting the impact of Shakti scheme, the study found that 19% women found a better-paying job or took up a job due to zero ticket travel offered by the scheme.

"In Bengaluru, it's even higher; around 34% have secured new or better jobs. They are from low income households and get jobs with marginally high wages, which, without free mobility, is not worth it. But the money they save from the free mobility, combined with the earnings from the job, really help with their financial distress and also boost the economy," said Ms. Krishnaswamy.

With respect to Gruha Lakshmi, around 95% beneficiaries reported financial upliftment due to the scheme. More than 90% reported improvement in their relationships with their own families and increase in influence on family decisions. Around 92% reported experiencing financial upliftment from Gruha Jyoti scheme as well.

Safety net

"These schemes are a social safety net. The money is not sitting idle somewhere. Whether it is money received through Gruha Lakshmi or any savings that they have because of these schemes, it is all being spent mainly on food, nutrition and health," remarked Ms. Krishnaswamy.

She noted that Karnataka lags behind peer States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in terms of health and nutrition indicators. The stunting and wasting of children is over 30% to 35%. The anaemia of women is at 66%.

"You can't secure your GDP with an underfed and anaemic population. But the money that's saved through these schemes go back into the economy and boosts the economy. The fact that it is being spent on nutrition and health tells you that there are real unmet needs in core areas," she added.

Penetration of scheme

When it comes to penetration of the schemes, Bengaluru Urban and Tumakuru districts seem to have done well, with the saturation figures around the median for all schemes.

Bengaluru Rural, on the other hand, shows poor penetration of Anna Bhagya, Shakti and Yuvanidhi schemes.

State records sharp fall in child marriages in 3 years

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Karnataka has recorded one of the sharpest declines in child marriages in the country, with cases falling by 55% among girls and 88% among boys over the past three years, according to a new study.

The report, "Tipping Point to Zero: Evidence Towards a Child Marriage Free India", was released by Just Rights for Children (JRC), a network of over 250 NGOs. It attributes the fall to awareness campaigns, stronger legal deterrence, and community-level interventions that created trust in reporting mechanisms.

Steepest in Assam

At the national level, child marriages dropped by 69% among girls and 72% among boys. Assam registered the steepest fall among girls at 84%, followed by Maharashtra and Bihar (70% each), and Rajasthan (66%). The study, covering 757 villages across five States, was prepared by the Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change for Children (C-LAB), an initiative of JRC partner India Child Protection.

Karnataka's approach

Unlike most other States, Karnataka relied more on helplines (75%) and Child Welfare Committees (53%) than police stations (40%) for reporting cases. This shift, the report noted, shows a "critical link between trust in community-based systems and action against child marriage."

The State government's move to empower Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) to register marriages was described as a "turning point." Being accessible to villagers, PDOs built awareness and prevented nearly 2,000 child marriages in 2021 alone. Karnataka also became the first State to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, making even engagements involving minors a punishable offence, the study noted.

Awareness

Awareness campaigns were identified by 92% of respondents as the most effective tool to end child marriage, followed by prosecutions through FIRs and arrests (50%).

Nearly 99% of respondents said they had heard of the Union government's Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign, mostly through NGOs, schools, and gram panchayats. In Karnataka, all respondents reported taking a pledge against child marriage, while 78% identified NGOs as lead facilitators.

However, despite these gains, challenges remain. Fear of social stigma (79%) and lack of awareness (62%) continue to prevent people from reporting cases. While Census 2011 recorded 4.8 lakh children married before the legal age in Karnataka, only 783 cases were reported between 2019 and 2022.

Ravi Kant, National Convener of JRC, said, "By declaring even engagements in child marriage cases a punishable offence, the government has fortified the child protection ecosystem. Such strict measures are vital to dismantle this centuries-old crime."

The report recommends stricter enforcement of the law, compulsory marriage registration, and wider dissemination of the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat portal. It urges designating a National Day Against Child Marriage to mobilise support for a child marriage-free India by 2030.

Decline in number of child marriages

Karnataka
Girls 55% | Boys 88%

2,000 child marriages stopped in 2021 through PDO intervention

National level
Girls 69% | Boys 72%

Deterrents identified

- 92% Awareness campaigns most effective
- 50% FIRs and arrests as strong deterrent
- 79% Social stigma still prevents reporting
- 62% Lack of awareness a key barrier

Community role

- 75% used helplines
- 53% approached child welfare committees
- 40% went to police stations
- 78% credited NGOs as main facilitators

Social and Educational Survey gains momentum after Chief Minister's directive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Social and Educational survey in Karnataka gathered significant momentum on Saturday, a day after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's review meeting, in which he directed officials to achieve at least 10% of the overall target daily.

Entering its sixth day, the survey showed progress across districts, with enumerators almost doubling their coverage of households and addressing early technical challenges.

According to official data, as of Saturday evening (5.30 p.m.), 12.8 lakh households had been surveyed since the exercise began on September 22. On Saturday alone, enumerators managed to cover 8,18,964 households, accounting for over 37% of the day's target of 22,05,135 households. Overall till Friday, enumerators had covered 4,68,133 households.

On Saturday among the districts, Belagavi topped the coverage with 54,506 households, followed by Tumkuru (47,772), Mandya (38,816), Haveri (39,323), Davangere (38,423) and Hassan (35,751). Bengaluru Urban (8,104) and Kodagu (9,171) recorded the lowest coverage on Saturday.

Strict monitoring

Officials noted that the initial days of the survey were hampered by technical issues with the mobile-based application. These glitches affected field operations, delaying household enumeration in several districts.

However, by Friday, most technical hurdles had been resolved, enabling smooth survey operations from Saturday onwards. In Shivamogga, for instance, officials confirmed that survey work had picked up considerably since Thursday evening. The Deputy Commissioner of the district suspended a nodal officer who went on leave without informing senior authorities, signalling that strict monitoring was in place.

In Dakshina Kannada, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner H.V. Darshan, enumerators began field work by 7 a.m. and continued until 8.30 p.m. The sixth version of the survey app was provided on Saturday morning, and officials ensured that UHID-based household lists were made available to all enumerators. Secretary of Backward Classes Welfare Tulasi Maddineni instructed enumerators to survey a minimum of 150 households in their designated areas in coordination with peers, helping address earlier coordination gaps.

The Kittur Karnataka region also reported steady progress, with most technical issues resolved. In Belagavi, around 53,000 families were surveyed on Saturday. In Uttara Kannada, 44,464 families had been covered, with 61% of the district's target achieved. Similarly, Dharwad recorded coverage of over 32,000 families on Saturday, bringing the cumulative total to 50,000.

Other districts, including Haveri, Gadag, Vijayapura, and Bagalkot, also reported improved progress as enumerators adapted to updated tools and processes. Officials emphasised that close supervision by senior officers had contributed to faster coverage.

Voluntary declaration

The State Information Department, in a press release issued from Mangaluru, encouraged citizens to submit voluntary declarations online at *https://kscbcselfdeclaration.karnataka.gov.in* and participate in the survey without waiting for enumerators to visit households.

KSRTC drive

BENGALURU: The KSRTC carried out an extensive drive against ticketless travel in August, 2025. It inspected 40,232 buses and collected fines amounting to ₹7,17,733.

Kalaloka to be launched at KIA in October to showcase State's heritage products

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Following a delay of over a month, Kalaloka, an aesthetically designed stall that will showcase and sell six products representing Karnataka's heritage, along with 28 Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products, is now slated for inauguration at the Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) Terminal-2 in October.

While the exact dates are not confirmed, the stall is expected to open after October 15, and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is likely to preside over the launch, sources told *The Hindu*.

Delayed by a month

Sources added that the store's setup was delayed by a month due to pending approval from airport security agencies, but now everything is in place, and it is set to be launched in October.

Products to be showcased

- Coffee
- Mysore Sandal Soap
- Channapatna Toys
- Bidriware
- Navalgund Durries (Handwoven cotton rugs)

- Sandalwood and rosewood carvings
- Perfumery and agarbathi
- Mysuru traditional paintings

"Kalaloka is envisioned as a cultural experience that captures the essence of Karnataka. The stall will feature six flagship state-run products alongside 28 GI-tagged items. Among the products to be showcased are Mysore Silk, Mysore Sandal Soap, among other products under Cauvery Handicrafts Emporium. These products will provide travellers with an opportunity to take home a piece of the state's heritage," M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries, said.

The products from Cauvery Handicrafts Emporium will include Channapatna toys and dolls, sandalwood and rosewood carvings, Bidriware, Navalgund Dhurries, among others.

In addition to the Terminal-2 outlet, plans are also under way to establish another Kalaloka stall at the international departure lounge of the airport. While tenders are being prepared and cost estimates have been drawn, a formal timeline for this expansion has not been confirmed.

For the Kalaloka stall, Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) has also introduced an ultra-luxury soap line under the "Kala Loka - Treasure of Karnataka" label. The Mysore Sandal "Millennium Super Premium Soap", weighing 150 gm and priced at around ₹3,000, is made from high-quality natural sandalwood oil and features premium packaging.

Additionally, KSDL is conducting trials of a jasmine oil-based soap, made from the rare Mysore Mallige variety, to cater to demand in markets like Europe.

Plans in London

The Karnataka government, through Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL) and KSDL, is also exploring opportunities in London under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Officials are reportedly planning to showcase Karnataka's heritage goods, particularly KSDL's premium soaps and MSIL's textile exports, such as the Mysore Silk portfolio, in boutique retail settings. The officials told *The Hindu* that discussions are going on, and currently they are looking at various ideas and ways to execute them.

Geetha Shivarajkumar says she will not contest polls

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Congress leader Geetha Shivarajkumar, who contested from the Shivamogga Lok Sabha seat, has stated that she will not contest any election in future, but will continue to work for the party.

Speaking at a party programme here on Saturday, Ms. Geetha, daughter of former Chief Minister S. Bangarappa and wife of actor Shivarajkumar, stated that she would not contest any election from now. However, she would continue to visit Shivamogga and campaign for the party whenever required.

Ms. Geetha made this statement at a programme, where Shwetha Bandi took charge as district president of Congress women's wing. Former MLA and party's women's wing State president Sowmya Reddy and others were present.

E-Mail-sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in ; Ph.:06764-236404
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
No. 3050 // Dt. 26/9/25 //
Cancellation of Tender for Road work
The tender for the work (1) Construction of **road from Uma Via- Tudibahal-Narayanprasad road** in the District of Boudh under CUVDA for the year 2024-25 (2) Construction of road from **Sanahula Siba Mandir to Dhauragotha Via-Damodarpur road and Bridge at 1st Km (6x10.77 mtr.)** in the District of Angul under MMSY-TRIP for the year 2024-25. (3) Improvement to **N.H-200- Arachua road and Bridge at 0.740 Km (3x10.77 mtr.)** in the District of Dhenkanal under MMSY-Impvt. to Existing R.D.Road for the year 2024-25. (4) Construction of road from **Ghosar- Angapada Via-Kadingbahal road** in the District of Angul under MMSY-CAPEX. (5) Construction of road from **Bagedia to Similipal road** in the District of Angul under MMSY-CAPEX invited vide this office Tender Call Notice No.2611 dt.04.09.2025 (Bid Identification No.Road Online-AGL-14/2025-26) by the Procurement Officer, Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul are hereby cancelled on Administrative ground.
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
O-915 : OIPR-25180/11/0079/2526

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

T. RANGANATHAN (97)
Retd. Divisional Manager
SG Pharmaceuticals
attained Acharyan Tiruvadi on 24/09/25
Leaving behind R. Padma (wife) and a host of family and friends.
98405 68461.

Smt R GNANAMBAL
Born: 01.01.1940 ~ Expired: 20.09.2025
You will always live in our Hearts and Thoughts.
Deeply Mourned by
Family, Relatives and Friends
Mobile: 9880155944, 9730034852

B R Venkatesan Bsc ACA ACS 93 years Adyar Chennai attained sivaloka prapti on 25th September. 10th day ceremonies on 4th Oct. Ctc 9444019232

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to : www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Musi river in spate leaves parts of Hyderabad flooded

Water enters hundreds of houses, and many are completely submerged; residents say they were not alerted about water release from reservoirs; about 2,000 rescued from inundated bus station

Swathi Vadlamudi
HYDERABAD

Destruction trail: The swollen Musi river following incessant rain and release of water from Osman Sagar and Himayatsagar reservoirs in Hyderabad on Saturday. NAGARA GOPAL

Musi river, in spate due to heavy rain in its catchment areas, left several localities in Hyderabad flooded, including Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), the main State and inter-State bus terminal managed by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGRTC), since Friday evening.

Water entered about 200-300 houses in and around Chaderghat, including several tin-roofed structures and single-storeyed dwellings which were completely submerged. As the water level rose rapidly, families scurried to the upper floors, with a few spending the night on the rooftop.

Several residents claimed that they had not been alerted about the release of water into the river from Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs.

First time in 60 years

High amount of water, at 35,000 cusecs, was released into the river from the twin reservoirs on Friday. It was the first time in 60 years that 15 gates of the Osman Sagar were lifted by nine feet, officials from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board informed.

At MGBS, with bus bays submerged in knee deep water towards midnight, forces from the Hyderabad Disaster Response & Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) evacuated about 2,000 passengers using ropes, said HYDRAA chief A.V. Ranganath. All bus services were shifted to other locations in the city, and passengers were alerted accordingly.

The retaining walls on the Chaderghat causeway were washed away, while the bridge on the river connecting Pratapsingaram and Gowrelli villages in the suburbs was also submerged.

On Friday, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) shifted over 1,000 residents from flood-prone areas to safer locations and provided relief to stranded families near Chaderghat and MGBS. On Saturday, drones were used to supply food to those stranded. The National Disaster Response Force was deployed to bring the residents to safety using rescue boats.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy conducted a review of the flood situation and issued instructions to the authorities to safely evacuate the stranded people and take relief measures.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heavy rain alert in five districts - Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Vikarabad and Sangareddy - for Sunday.

Additionally, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are very likely to occur in all 33 districts of the State.

Anatomy of the stampede at Karur

C. Jaisankar
KARUR

A combination of factors, mainly poor planning and insufficient security, led to the stampede that claimed 38 lives and injured over 80 others at the TVK rally in Karur. Most of the adult victims were between 18 to 30 years of age.

It is learnt that TVK functionaries presented a list of four spots, including the Bus Stand roundabout and Light House in Karur, for the TVK meeting. Since all four places were thickly populated business areas, the police refused permission. Instead, the police granted permission for the meeting at Velusamypuram on the Karur-Erode Road, where AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami held a rally on Thursday.

Announcement

The organisers had announced that TVK president Vijay would speak at noon. The crowd began to assemble from 9 a.m., but he did not arrive at the scheduled time.

The crowd slowly grew in size as the day progressed. There were roughly less than 4,000 people by 2 p.m. The supporters, who came from different parts of Karur and nearby Erode and Coimbatore districts, began to surge around 4 p.m., after learning that Mr. Vijay was on his way to Karur after having completed a rally in Namakkal. Many of them, including women with children and girls, continued to wait in spite of the scorching sun. Some of them even skipped lunch to keep their spots.

The organisers kept playing specially penned campaign songs to engage the crowd. The crowd continued to surge towards the spot where Mr. Vijay's bus was supposed to be parked. Though Mr. Vijay reached the road overbridge in Karur, which was less than a kilometre from the meeting spot, around 6 p.m., he could reach the designated spot only at 7 p.m.

The size of the crowd doubled at the meeting spot as the people, who accompanied Mr. Vijay's vehicle, also joined those who were already waiting there. The problem began when the crowd was forced to make way for Mr. Vijay's vehicle. This ended in the stampede. The fans, who could not move further behind, began fainting. They fell on a shed, where a generator and an outside broadcast van of a television, had been positioned.

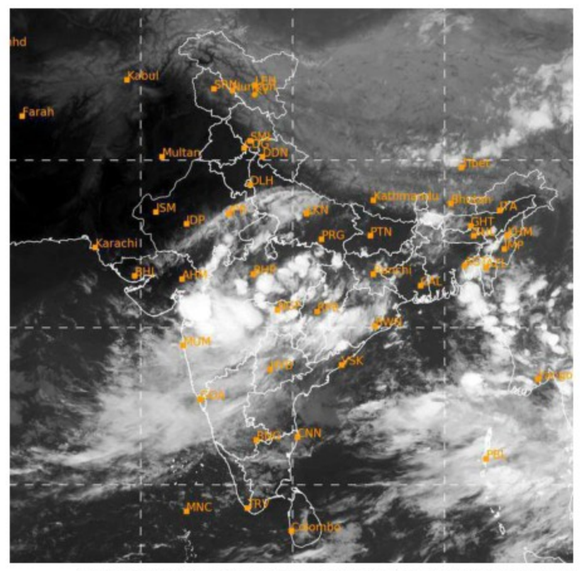
'No space to move'

"I was pushed down by the crowd all of a sudden. There was absolutely no space to move. I subsequently fainted," said B. Kanishka, a survivor.

"When I was pushed down by an uncontrollable crowd, my friend acted swiftly and moved me to a safer place. The situation could have been averted had the people not been forced to wait for hours together. Poor planning and execution of the programme and lack of police personnel at the spot were also the reason," said Karthick of Erode.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Saurashtra & Kutch, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.5	27.0	Kozhikode	27	30.4	24.3
Ahmedabad	—	37.2	27.2	Kurnool	33	25.1	21.2
Aizawl	13	32.3	21.9	Lucknow	—	34.4	27.4
Allahabad	1	32.6	24.6	Madurai	—	37.5	26.1
Bengaluru	—	26.0	20.2	Mangaluru	20	26.8	23.4
Bhopal	—	29.6	24.6	Mumbai	12	27.7	24.4
Bhubaneswar	0.8	31.6	25.3	Mysuru	1	28.8	19.8
Chandigarh	—	36.2	24.4	New Delhi	—	37.2	25.7
Chennai	—	35.7	26.0	Patna	0.1	34.4	27.2
Coimbatore	—	32.4	23.0	Port Blair	51	28.6	23.7
Dehradun	—	35.3	21.9	Puducherry	—	36.0	25.8
Gangtok	17	26.6	17.1	Pune	17.2	27.0	23.3
Goa	31	25.4	23.9	Raipur	28	31.0	23.9
Guwahati	—	30.8	27.5	Ranchi	31	27.4	22.4
Hubballi	—	23.0	22.0	Shillong	—	26.2	17.9
Hyderabad	19	25.0	21.7	Shimla	—	28.0	18.0
Imphal	—	29.3	24.0	Srinagar	—	30.1	12.4
Jaipur	—	35.8	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	17	31.6	22.6
Kochi	10	30.6	24.4	Tiruchi	—	35.5	25.0
Kohima	—	26.3	18.8	Vijayawada	4	31.8	24.3
Kolkata	—	34.1	28.0	Visakhapatnam	7	30.6	25.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	68	.62	38	92	
Bengaluru	9	.48	.60	—	88	
Chennai	2	.16	—	39	112	
Delhi	.11	.43	.59	289	166	
Hyderabad	.40	.17	.21	57	78	
Kolkata	6	.28	.18	57	57	
Lucknow	7	.51	.44	73	127	
Mumbai	3	.23	.11	22	106	
Pune	—	.15	158	—	75	
Visakhapatnam	.20	.56	.42	84	96	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 196 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Bhima flood fury: 4,715 people shifted to safety

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

As floodwaters from the Bhima continued to inundate several low-lying areas in Kalaburagi district, the district administration has opened 41 relief centres and shifted 4,715 people to safety. The flooding followed the release of 3.5 lakh cusecs of water from Maharashtra's Veer, Ujani, and Seena reservoirs, along with the Bori, into the Bhima.

Out of 153 vulnerable villages identified across the district, 68 have been hit by the current spell of flooding. Relief centres have been set up in affected taluks where food, shelter and medical care are being provided.

"Of the displaced, 2,234 are men, 1,647 women, and 894 children. Health teams are conducting daily check-ups, and all basic amenities are being ensured at the centres," said Deputy Commissioner Fouzia Taranum. With the India Meteorological Department issuing an orange alert for Kalaburagi and a red alert for the Bhima's upper catchment for Saturday and Sunday, the district administration has ordered a two-day closure of schools as a precaution.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF MPP & POWER
GLOBAL INVITATION OF BIDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

CORRIGENDUM OF NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS

In partial modification of Notice Inviting Proposals (NIP) for implementation of 18 Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) upto 25 MW having total capacity 208 MW with free power royalty rate uniformly @12% + 1% for entire period i.e. 40 years published on 28.08.2025, which is also uploaded in the Directorate of Energy website i.e. https://doehimachal.nic.in, it is to inform that the last date of sale of Bid Documents, last date of submission of Bids and the date of opening of Bids are hereby extended as under :-

Last date for sale of Bid Documents	: 28.10.2025 upto 1700 Hours
Tentative date of Pre-Bid Conference	: 31.10.2025
Last date of submission of Bids	: 11.11.2025 upto 1300 Hours (IST)
Date of opening of Bids	: 11.11.2025 at 1500 Hours (IST) onwards

Note:-If the Last date for submission of Bids or the date of opening of bids happens to be a holiday declared by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in Shimla, the Bids will be submitted and opened on the next working day in the same order and at the same time.

The other terms & conditions of earlier published Notice Inviting Proposals on 28.08.2025 shall remain the same.

For & on behalf of the Governor of HP
-Sd-
Director (Energy),
Directorate of Energy, Govt. of HP,
Tel. +91-177-2673552, Fax +91-1772673553
e-mail: ceenergy09@gmail.com

HP / 1182/25-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-30:2025-26 Dated:- 26.09.2025

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Two cover System :- Head of Account 5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Improvements:- (1) IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD DRAIN IN ARABAVI CHALLAKERE ROAD FROM KM 306.00 TO 310.00 AND CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE IN KM 309.65 (SH45) IN CHALLKERE TALUK. (WI. 22539)/Call-2

Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-200.00

Tenders dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 04-10-2025 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 06-10-2025 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 08.10.2025 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 10-10-2025 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/393/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Chitradurga.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:Nidagundi Dt: Vijayapur.
Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No: KBJNL/DDA/PB-2/2025-26/1686 Dated:24.09.2025

SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Requesting to submit the quotation rates for the following related to the TLIS Headwork. The details of the works are as follows:

Sl. No	Item Description	Unit	Required Quantity
1	POWER TRANSFORMER:Power Transformer Copper winding,6.3 MVA ,33/6.6 KV Delta / Star, Dynll, 3 Ph, 50Hz, core type winding with OLTC, RTCC, etc, complete filled with Transit oil with 10% spare oil. As directed by engineer in charge.	No.	1

For further details it is requested to visit the undersigned office personally and get the details of work. The quotations should be submitted in sealed cover or by mail. The last date submission of quotation is on **Dated: 08.10.2025 at 4-00PM.**
Email: 1. dam_division@rediffmail.com
Contact Phone Number: 1. Sri Vittal Tubaki, Assistant Engineer, **Contact. No. 8971985865**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/367/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ- 562114
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ : 27931759, ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 27931221,
Email: itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Web Site.www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ:ನಸಹೊ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಏಆರ್/06/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.09.2025

"ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2021-22 ಮತ್ತು 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ನಿರ್ಭಂದಿತ ಅನುದಾನ, 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಅನುದಾನದ ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ 01, 02 ಮತ್ತು 03ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಏಕ/ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ/ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
01	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT44852/CALL-2	2.86	7,150/-
02	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49754	59.60	76,000/-
03	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49750	43.60	74,000/-
04	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49384	35.00	59,000/-

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **14.10.2025** ರ **ಸಂಜೆ 5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **16.10.2025** ರ **ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **18.10.2025** ರ **ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
2)ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3015/ತಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/2025-26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/15 Dated: 22-09-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Modification of OHE due to shifting of points 63A & 63B with crossover with increase in length of 250m for RD-1 at HHL Yard.	Rs. 82,96,920.37

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13-10-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD
PUB/510/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | swr_railways

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : 2254, Kousalya, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Road, Mysuru-570005

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Mylanayakana Hosahalli Branch, Bevoor Road, Opposite Govt Middle School, Mylanayakanahosahalli Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District-562160. Contact no: - 918928918812, Mail Id: ubin0918814@unionbankofindia.bank

Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-applicant And Guarantor: 1) Sri T. Kariyappa S/o Chikkachaluvaiah, No. 312/204, Harur Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562160
2) Mrs. Yeshodamma, W/o T. Kariyappa, No. 312/204, Harur Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562160
3) Sri T Rangaswamy, S/o Late Thimmegowda, No. 312/204, Harur Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562160
Amount due : Rs. 11,10,587-00 as on 31-08-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses.
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All The Part And Parcel Of The Residential Land And Building In The Name Of **Mr. T Kariyappa.** At Kaneshumari No. 468/402/237 Property No.152900101600220014, Harur Village, Kasba Hobli, Channapatna Tq, Ramanagara. **Measuring East-West: 9.144 Meters, North-South: 15.24 Meters Total 1499.40 square feet, Bounded By East:** House Of Venkatesh, **West:** Property Of T Rangaswamy, **North:** Vacant Property Of Borrower T Kariyappa And Road, **South:** Land Of Shivalingaiah.

Reserve Price :
Rs. 18,47,210-00 (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Ten Only)
Earnest Money To Be Deposited :
Rs. 1,84,721-00 (Rupees One Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty one Only)

Date and time of E Auction : Date : 15-10-2025 From 12.00 PM to 5.00 PM
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction.
E-auction website: https://baanknet.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and registration and login and bidding rules visit : please refer to the link provided : https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx and www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Date : 28-09-2025
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website:www.osmcl.nic.in; Email:proc.osmcl.od@od.gov.in

Notification No.8287/OSMCL/2025 Date : 26.09.2025

NOTICE INVITING Re-tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of DIRECT DIGITAL FLAT PANEL FLUOROSCOPY & RADIOGRAPHY SYSTEM on Rate Contract Basis

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/ 2025-26/DR System_EQP/04	Re-tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of DIRECT DIGITAL FLAT PANEL FLUOROSCOPY & RADIOGRAPHY SYSTEM on Rate Contract Basis	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	26/09/2025, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	06/10/2025, 11.30 AM **Venue** : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		13/10/2025, 3 PM	03/11/2025, 5 PM
4.	Date& time of Online Technical bid Opening	07/11/2025, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The Authority reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL
CAD-1901 OIPR-10112/11/0037/2526

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website:www.osmcl.nic.in; Email:proc.osmcl.od@od.gov.in

Notification No.8305/OSMCL/2025 Date : 26.09.2025

NOTICE INVITING Re-tender for Supply of Digital Hemoglobinometer Device with Compatible Test Strips/Cuvettes on Rate Contract Basis

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2025- 26/ Hemoglobinometer Device_Test Strip/ 05	Re-tender for Supply of Digital Hemoglobinometer Device with Compatible Test Strips / Cuvettes on Rate Contract Basis	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	26/09/2025, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	08/10/2025, 11.30 AM **Venue** : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		13/10/2025, 3 PM	03/11/2025, 5 PM
4.	Date& time of Online Technical bid Opening	07/11/2025, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The Authority reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL
CAD-1902 OIPR-10112/11/0035/2526

From Page One

At least 38 dead in stampede at Vijay's rally

Karur District Collector M. Thangavel and former Minister V. Senthilbalaji were among the first to rush to the hospitals.

Mr. Senthilbalaji told presspersons that doctors have been summoned from Salem and Namakkal to help out at the Karur Government Medical College Hospital. "A number of people have been admitted to private hospitals as well. We have told them not to charge these patients anything. The government will take care of the expenses," he said.

A senior police official said TVK functionaries refused to conduct the meeting in an open space at Karur. People walked with the actor's vehicle and got exhausted while the crowd swelled.

"No arrangement was made for drinking water facilities. Many women came with their children to the event. An open ground would have been much safer place for the meeting...but the organisers did not agree to the suggestion," the officer who preferred not to be quoted said.

Deeply saddening, says PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences. "The unfortunate incident during a political rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Wishing strength to them in this difficult time. Praying for a swift recovery to all those injured," he said in a post on X.

President Droupadi Murmu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and actor Rajinikanth also extended their heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives.

Mr. Vijay had embarked on his first State-wide political tour from Tiruchi on September 13 and visited several districts on Saturdays.

UN gridlocked, needs reform, says Jaishankar at General Assembly

External Affairs Minister calls for the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, he says that central to the erosion of the credibility of the world body has been resistance to reform

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addresses the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday. AP

The United Nations is "gridlocked" and in dire need of reform, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, while delivering the government's address to the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Saturday.

During his speech, Mr. Jaishankar criticised Pakistan for being a hub of terror, highlighted some of the challenges faced by the world today, including tariff uncertainty, and said India was ready to take on greater responsibilities at the UN.

Conflicts, a lack of resources and terrorism had left the UN "gridlocked", according to the Minister. The diminishing ability of the UN to forge common ground was eroding the belief in multilateralism, he said.

"Central to the erosion of the UN's credibility has been resistance to reform," Mr. Jaishankar said.

He called for historical wrongs done to Africa at the global body to be redressed and for the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). India was ready to assume greater responsibilities, he said.

India will always maintain its freedom of choice and be a voice of the Global South, says Minister

The Minister highlighted India's role in UN peacekeeping, efforts in fighting piracy in the Arabian Sea and the promotion of digitisation as core activities of India's foreign policy.

Mr. Jaishankar briefly presented a summary of the UN's history and contemporary challenges, which included the conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine, slow progress on the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and challenges with energy and food security. He also pointed to tariff volatility and uncertain market access as current challenges.

Tariff uncertainty

"De-risking is a growing compulsion, whether from limited sources of supply or over-dependence on a particular market," he said. Many countries, including India, have been navigating tariffs imposed by the U.S. administration of Donald Trump.

Without naming Pakistan, Mr. Jaishankar said India's neighbour had become "an epicentre of terrorism" .

"The UN's designated lists of terrorists are replete with its nationals," he said. India had exercised its right to defend its citizens against terrorism, in its response to the Pahalgam terror attacks of April 22, Mr. Jaishankar said. He called for the financing of terrorism to be choked and for relentless pressure on the terror ecosystem.

On Gaza and Ukraine, the Minister called on nations that could engage both sides to the conflict to step up and search for solutions. "India calls for an end to hostilities and will support any initiative that will help restore peace," he said.

Atmanirbharata (self-reliance), *atma raksha* (self-defence) and *atma vishwas* (self-confidence) were the three concepts that guided India's engagement with the contemporary world, the Minister said. "Bharat will always maintain its freedom of choice and will always be a voice of the Global South," he said, presumably referring to pressure on India to align with various blocs in the conduct of its foreign policy.

Pak. pleaded for end to fighting, India says in UNGA

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

Pakistan's military "pleaded" for a cessation of fighting during Operation Sindoor in May, India has said in a hard-hitting response in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), asserting that there was "no room for any third party" to intervene in issues between New Delhi and Islamabad.

"This Assembly witnessed absurd theatrics in the morning from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who once again glorified terrorism that is so central to their foreign policy," the First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, Petal Gahlot, said, delivering India's Right of Reply in the UNGA on Friday.

"Till May 9, Pakistan was threatening more attacks on India. But on May 10, its military pleaded with us directly for a cessation to the fighting. The intervening event was the destruction caused to multiple Pakistani airbases by Indian forces," the First Secretary said.

Curfew relaxed in violence-rocked Leh in a phased manner

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The curfew in Leh was relaxed in a phased manner on Saturday, after four days of uneasy calm in Ladakh's capital city.

The detained Ladakh Statehood activist Sonam Wangchuk was transferred from Leh to a jail in Jodhpur, as the police accused him of "vitiating the peaceful atmosphere of the region" and making an attempt "to derail the talks" between the Union government and the representatives of the region.

In a phased manner, the police announced a relaxation in curfew from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the old city and 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the outskirts of the city.

Officials said the curfew relaxation passed off peacefully, with people able to buy essentials after four days of tension in the city, following violent protests demanding Statehood on September 24. Four civilians were killed by security action against the protestors.

The Ladakh police said it would "allow only close relatives" to attend the funerals of the four civilians, scheduled for September 28 and 29.

In all, 44 people were detained after the protests.

"A Pakistani intelligence official who was sending the protest videos to Pakistan is among the 44 arrested. Five to six main ring leaders, including Mr. Wangchuk, were already detained. Mr. Wangchuk was detained under National Security Act (NSA) and shifted to Jodhpur," said S.D. Singh Jamwal, DGP, Ladakh.

Addressing his first press conference since the September 24 violence, Mr. Jamwal said that Mr. Wangchuk's visit to Pakistan to attend a Pakistan-based newspaper's climate conference, and his alleged misuse of funds received under the FCRA were also under investigation by multiple agencies.

M.P. custodial death case: CBI arrests a policeman

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the Madhya Pradesh Police, one of the two accused in the custodial death of a tribal man in Guna district, was arrested on Saturday, a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officer said.

The arrest comes days after the top court reprimanded the State government and CBI for failing to arrest the two policemen in connection with the death of Deva Pardhi, a 25-year-old tribal man arrested in a theft case. Pardhi and his uncle, residents of Bilakhedi village, was taken into custody on July 14, 2024, just hours before his wedding. He died the same night inside the Myana police station, with his family members alleging police brutality. Prashant Shrivastava, CBI Additional Superintendent of Police in Indore, told *The Hindu* that Uttam Singh Kushwaha, then an ASI at Myana police station, was arrested in Indore.

Muslim cleric and seven others arrested over violent clashes in Bareilly

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Police stand guard outside a dargah, a day after clashes between police and locals in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. PTI

The police on Saturday arrested eight persons, including the cleric Tauqeer Raza Khan, whose call for a demonstration supporting the "I love Muhammed" campaign led to a violent clash in Bareilly city of Uttar Pradesh the day before.

Mr. Khan, the chief of the Ittehad-e-Millat Council, had announced the protest on Islamia Ground on Friday.

The protest was against alleged instances of derogatory remarks against the Prophet in different parts of the country, including Shahjahanpur, as well as against the Kanpur Police's action against people who carried "I Love Muhammed" banners during a recent Id-e-Milad-un-Nabi procession in Kanpur.

The police are maintaining strict vigilance in Bareilly city and adjoining areas with heavy deployment of security personnel. The Internet has been blocked in the district. The police registered 10 first information reports in police stations in the district and detained at least 39 people in connection with the violence. Authorities also conducted flag march in various localities.

"Ittehad-e-Millat Council chief Tauqeer Raza Khan and others had given a call to assemble on the Islamia Ground after Friday prayers on September 26. The administration declined to give permission for the gathering in written and verbal form. Some individuals violated Section 163 of the BNSS [restriction on movement fearing breakdown of law] imposed across the area and attacked the police in various localities by throwing stones and firing. The police used minimum force to disperse the crowd. Eight accused, including Tauqeer Raza, have been arrested and sent to judicial custody," Anurag Arya, Senior Superintendent of Police, Bareilly, said.

"We have detained 39 people. Further action will be taken after analysing the CCTV footage and videos," he said.

U.P. govt. will teach a strong lesson to protesters, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Yogi Adityanath

Reacting to the clashes between protesters and the police in Bareilly on Friday, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said that the Maulana (cleric) in Bareilly had forgotten whose government was in the State and that "we will teach a lesson so strong that generations will forget to riot".

The police have arrested Tauqeer Raza Khan, who is the chief of the Ittehad-e-Millat Council, and seven others after there was a violent clash over the 'I Love Muhammed' banner during a procession in Kanpur on September 4.

"The Maulana in Bareilly seemed to have forgotten whose government is in place. He threatened to block roads, but we made it clear: no jam, no curfew will be imposed. We will send a message so strong that even future generations will hesitate to riot," said Mr. Adityanath during a function in Lucknow. He said since 2017, his government had dealt firmly with rioters, responding in ways they understood. He said the previous governments had compromised with rioters. "For such anti-social elements who were getting a free run, we have brought in the bulldozer. Our government uprooted mafia rule and put the State on the path of development," he said.

Meanwhile, multiple posters of "I Love Adityanath", and "I Love Bulldozer" surfaced across Lucknow in response to the "I Love Muhammed" campaign, which led to clashes in Bareilly. These posters were erected by BJP Yuva Morcha Lucknow general secretary Amit Tripathi.

ARCOP-led consortium emerges as top bidder to design new Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

At present, it is the National Museum in New Delhi that hosts a diverse collection of artefacts on India's heritage. FILE PHOTO

A consortium led by the architectural firm Arcop Associates has emerged as the best bidder pending further approval from competent authorities to provide design consultant services for the upcoming Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum which is being built at North and South Blocks, the government buildings that flank Rashtrapathi Bhavan in the national capital.

As part of the Central Vista project, these historic buildings are undergoing a phased restoration as part of the ambitious Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum project which will replace the National Museum. Once completed, this museum will be the largest in the world, with 950 rooms spanning 1,17,000 square metres.

Experienced team

The ARCOP-led consortium has brought in an experienced team led by Principal Architect Kulapat Yantrasast, a Thai-born architect and designer known for his thoughtful, human-centred approach that blends contemporary aesthetics with cultural sensitivity.

Mr. Yantrasast, a protégé of Japanese master Tadao Ando, co-founded the firm WHY Architecture in Los Angeles, where he has led acclaimed projects such as the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Speed Art Museum renovation, and the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles. He has also been selected to design galleries for the redevelopment of the Louvre in Paris.

The Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for the selection of a Design Consultant (Architectural & Exhibition Design) for the museum through open competitive bidding was published on July 9 by the Union Culture Ministry.

A pre-bid meeting was conducted on July 21, which generated queries from over 25 national and international firms. The Ministry received five technical bids online through the e-procurement portal.

As part of the evaluation process, all five agencies were invited to present their technical proposals before a distinguished evaluation jury on September 22 and 23 as stipulated in the NIT conditions, sources told *The Hindu*.

Following a evaluation of submitted documents, adherence to criteria as per the NIT, and assessment of presentations, three firms were shortlisted: Arcop Associates Pvt. Ltd., Knight Frank India, and EcoFirst Services Limited. Upon evaluation of the bids, and based on the composite quality and cost-based selection score, Arcop Associates was declared the successful bidder for the design consultant services for the museum, the sources said.

CBI cracks down on builders who 'cheated' homebuyers in Kolkata, Bengaluru, Mumbai

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered six cases and is conducting searches at 12 locations in a major crackdown on builders allegedly involved in cheating thousands of homebuyers in Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Mumbai. The agency is also probing the nexus between builders and officials of financial institutions. The cases have been registered following a Supreme Court directive.

The builders have been identified as the Bengaluru-based Ithaca Estate Private Limited, LGCL Urban Homes (India) LLP, and Ozone Urbana Infra Developers Pvt. Ltd.; Mumbai-based Shashwati Realty Pvt. Ltd. and ACME Realities Pvt. Ltd.; and MKHS Housing LLP, Kolkata.

The CBI has registered 22 cases against various builders of NCR.

The Supreme Court, observing the unholy nexus between the builders and the financial institutions in cheating the homebuyers by innovating and introducing a 'subvention scheme' of home loans, in April 2025 directed the CBI to register seven preliminary enquiries. The agency registered 22 cases against various builders of NCR, which are under active investigation.

"Now, on completion of the 7th preliminary enquiry, which was against various builders outside NCR, the CBI has submitted the status report before the Supreme Court. Upon perusal of the report..., the court directed the CBI to register six regular cases against different builders in Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Mumbai and unknown officials of financial institutions," said the agency, adding that the searches were under way.

States ruled by Cong. nullifying GST relief with new taxes: Modi

PM unveils several projects worth ₹50,000 crore in Odisha, launches BSNL's 4G network; he accuses Congress governments of looting people by not passing on Central tax relief; says farmers and other sections of society benefited from GST reforms

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Building tomorrow: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating development works in Jharsuguda of Odisha on Saturday. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is seen. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Odisha on Saturday that the Congress governments were nullifying the potential benefits of the reduced Goods and Services Tax (GST) by imposing new taxes in the States governed by them.

"Since September 5, GST reforms have been carried out. The Bharatiya Janata Party government is continuously giving you tax relief and increasing your savings, but Congress is still not desisting from its 'activities'," Mr. Modi said at a function to inaugurate development projects in Jharsuguda district on Saturday.

"Congress governments are still busy looting people – and I am not saying this without reason. I have proof that people across the country are benefiting. When we introduced the new GST system, we reduced taxes on cement as well. Our goal was to make cement more affordable so that people could spend less on building and repairing their homes," he said.

The Prime Minister said that when the GST rate had been reduced, prices dropped across the country. "However, Congress doesn't want to give this happiness to the common people. Previously, when we reduced the prices of diesel and petrol, wherever the Congress was in power, they imposed another tax on top of it, leaving the prices unchanged, and filling their own coffers, opening the way for loot. When our government reduced the prices of cement, they imposed a new tax," he said.

"And so, the benefits that the Government of India wanted to give to the people of Himachal Pradesh were blocked by the Congress which knows how to loot."

Sixth visit in 15 months

This was the Prime Minister's sixth visit to Odisha in 15 months since the BJP came to power in the State in June 2024.

Mr. Modi accused the Congress of burdening people with higher taxes before 2014.

"Before 2014, the Congress never missed an opportunity to loot you. After you voted the BJP to power, we worked to protect you from this loot. Back then, anyone earning up to ₹2 lakh was forced to pay income tax. That practice continued until 2014. But when you gave us the opportunity to serve you, no one with an annual income of up to ₹12 lakh has to pay even a single rupee in tax," he said.

Highlighting the GST reforms, he said: "Prices of essential items have fallen sharply. For example, if a family spent ₹1 lakh on rations and household goods annually, the Congress government used to take away ₹20,000-₹25,000 as tax. Families ended up spending ₹1.25 lakh."

"After we implemented GST in 2017, the BJP government reduced these taxes significantly. Now, on the same annual expenditure of ₹1 lakh, a family pays only ₹5,000-₹6,000. That means poor and middle-class families are now saving ₹20,000 every year," Mr. Modi said.

The GST reforms had also benefited farmers in a big way, especially in purchase of farm machines such as tractors, threshers and tillers. Tribals have also been benefited as taxes on Kendu leaves had been lowered.

Earlier, Mr. Modi launched development projects worth ₹50,000 crore for Odisha and nation.

Chief Ministers and Union Ministers from different parts of the country witnessed the launch of the 4G network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. by Mr. Modi, who said India had become the fifth country in the world to achieve this target in record time.

"This network is upgradeable to 5G. This marks a historic leap toward self-reliance. About one lakh mobile towers have been installed across the country, bringing affordable 4G data services to more than two crore citizens in over 30,000 village," he said.

BPF victory in Bodoland council is a setback for BJP

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Turning heads: The BPF won 28 of the autonomous council's 40 seats in its second-best electoral performance. PTI

The Bodoland People's Front (BPF) has swept the elections to Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). The final results were declared on Saturday.

The party, led by Hagrama Mohilary, a former extremist who ruled the BTC for 17 years until 2020, won 28 of the autonomous council's 40 seats to dislodge the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from power.

It was the BPF's second-best electoral performance after the 31 seats it won in the 2015 council elections. The UPPL and the BJP won seven and five seats, almost half the number of seats they won five years ago.

Mr. Mohilary contested two seats but won from one. The outcome for his UPPL counterpart and the BTC's Chief Executive Member, Pramod Boro, was similar. The BPF's performance was evenly distributed among the five districts of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) – Baksa, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Tamulpur, and Udalguri – that the BTC administers.

Allies turned rivals

Based on its 2020 performance, after severing ties with a resurgent BJP, the BPF was expected to do well. It exceeded expectations by winning 11 more seats than five years ago, partially helped by the decision of the UPPL and BJP not to repeat their pre-poll alliance.

In 2020, the BPF emerged as the single-largest party with 17 seats. The UPPL and the BJP, which won 12 and nine seats, respectively, formed the government along with the regional Gana Suraksha Party (one seat).

Though backed by dedicated supporters, the BPF is believed to have benefited from the rivalry between the UPPL and the BJP in at least 30 seats. The former allies tried to outperform each other by claiming to have ensured lasting peace in the hitherto conflict-prone BTR, but ended up losing ground.

The UPPL was never a major force in the BTR before Mr. Boro, fresh from brokering the Bodo Peace Accord, took charge in 2020. The outcome is seen as more embarrassing for the BJP, which wanted to expand its reach to the BTC with the 2026 Assembly election in mind.

The BTR encompasses 15 of Assam's 126 Assembly seats. Although the Congress and other non-National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties drew a blank, the results have given them confidence that the BJP is not unbeatable.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the cancellation of the BJP's campaign three days before the polls due to the untimely death of music legend Zubeen Garg in Singapore affected his party's performance.

"The scenario might have been different had the unfortunate incident not happened, but I am not worried as an NDA partner will form the council," he said. The BPF returned to the NDA after temporarily aligning with a Congress-led alliance during the 2021 Assam Assembly election.

Drop NSA charges, release Wangchuk, says Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/JAIPUR/PATNA

At the heart of the crisis lies BJP's betrayal of the aspirations of people of Ladakh: Kharge

Opposition parties across the country on Saturday stepped up their criticism of the Union government's handling of the ongoing crisis in Ladakh and the detention of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk under provisions of the National Security Act (NSA).

Protests in Ladakh demanding Statehood and tribal status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution turned violent on Wednesday, with at least four protesters killed in the clashes with security forces. The Union Home Ministry accused Mr. Wangchuk, who had become the face of the protests, of "instigating" the protesters. Two days later, authorities detained him under the NSA.

On Saturday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge posted a statement on social media saying his party "strongly condemns the pathetic handling of the situation in Ladakh by the government and the subsequent arrest of Sonam Wangchuk under the draconian National Security Act". "At the heart of the crisis lies the BJP's persistent betrayal of the aspirations of people of Ladakh," he added.

'Is he a terrorist?'

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister and Congress leader Ashok Gehlot, questioned why Mr. Wangchuk was transported to the high-security Central Jail in Jodhpur.

"What has happened all of a sudden that the stringent NSA was slapped on Mr. Wangchuk and he was shifted from Ladakh to far-off Jodhpur? Is he a terrorist? In fact, he has been a big supporter of Modiji."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Central Committee member Tanuj Khatri called Mr. Wangchuk's detention a "blow to the soul of democracy", and akin to assaulting the sentiments of Ladakh's people. In New Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party's Political Affairs Committee member Durgesh Pathak echoed this sentiment, adding that it reflected the "dictatorial character of the Modi government".

"He was among the first to raise voice against China's aggression. Unfortunately, the Central government has sought to suppress that voice. Questioning border security and Ladakh's rights is not a crime but an act in the national interest," Mr. Khatri said.

An unkept promise

Mr. Kharge said, "For over a year now, there has been turmoil, and instead of lending a patient hearing to the cries of the people for inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, Modi government is responding with violence. The BJP had pledged Sixth Schedule status for the region; sadly that promise has been squarely abandoned."

Congress general secretary in-charge of communication Jairam Ramesh also referred to the 2020 poll promise of the BJP, saying that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes had recommended Sixth Schedule status to Ladakh in 2019, after the Union Ministries of Home Affairs, Tribal Affairs, and Law and Justice had given a "no objection to this", while citing a report of *The Hindu*.

Sonam Wangchuk's wife yet to get detention order copy or speak to him

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Standing vigil: Security personnel continue patrolling on the streets following curfew relaxation in Leh on Saturday. AFP

A day after climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act (NSA) and taken to Jodhpur in Rajasthan, his wife said on Saturday she was yet to get a copy of the order or speak to her husband.

Gitanjali Angmo, Mr. Wangchuk's wife, told *The Hindu* that she was told by the police on Friday, the day he was detained from his village, that they would make her speak to Mr. Wangchuk once he reached Jodhpur.

"It has been more than 24 hours, we do not know how he is. They have not even given us a copy of the detention order. The police officials are not responding to my calls. If I do not hear from them for another day, I will move court," said Ms. Angmo, who is the co-founder of Himalayan Institute of Alternate Studies (HIAL) in Ladakh, whose land registration was cancelled last month and which is also being probed for foreign funds violation.

Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and co-convener of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), spearheading the movement to demand constitutional safeguards for Ladakh for the past five years, said that they had requested the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to ensure that Mr. Wangchuk was not harmed.

Two Congress councillors, Stanzin Tsepaq from Upper Leh and Smanla Dorje Nurboo from Saspol, were among the 12 people who surrendered in the court on Saturday. While the others were sent to judicial custody, the Congress councillors and two others – Rigzin Dorjey, vice-president, LBA and Tsewang Dorjey, village head of Tinmozgang – were sent to police custody.

The NSA enables detention of an individual for up to a year based on executive orders and without a trial in the court of law.

The civil society leader questioned the police theory about "foreign involvement" in the protests. He reiterated the demand for a judicial inquiry into the deaths.

"They are saying Nepalese people instigated the violence. Many Nepalese citizens live and work here. Even if the theory is true, how could a foreigner mobilise 5,000 young people in two days when all the security agencies are stationed here? The Intelligence Bureau, Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), Army, all are posted here. Leh is a small city, it can be tracked easily. There was no anti-national sentiment here, it was just the frustration of the youth. They were angry and torched the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office," Mr. Lakruk said.

EC likely to visit Bihar next week to review election preparedness

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) is expected to visit Bihar on October 4 and 5 to review preparedness for the forthcoming Assembly election in the State.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi are expected to be in Patna, where they will hold meetings with the Chief Electoral Officer and other State officials.

Before the visit, a meeting of Observers – General, Police, and Expenditure – appointed by the commission is scheduled to be held in the national capital on October 3, a senior official told *The Hindu*.

As a practice, election dates are announced after the visit of the full Election Commission to a State. Thus, the schedule for the polls is likely to be announced any time after October 5. The entire election process in Bihar must be completed before November 22.

This will be the EC's first visit to Bihar since the contentious special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was announced, with the final list scheduled to be published on September 30. The draft list contained 7.24 crore voters, while around 65 lakh names were omitted for various reasons.

The EC has already announced an SIR for the entire country, and Bihar will be the first State to hold an Assembly election after this process, in which electoral rolls have been made *de novo*. The Bihar election is crucial for both the NDA and the INDIA bloc, as it could set the political course for the Assembly polls in five States next year.

Nitish unfit to govern Bihar, says Tejashwi

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar, Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday again targeted Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over his age and health.

"Nitish Kumar is no longer fit to run Bihar. He has grown old. Bihar needs to develop at a fast pace." Mr. Yadav said at an event focused on extremely backward classes in Patna.

Bihar polls: BSP picks three candidates

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Uttar Pradesh-based Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday became the first political party to announce candidates for the upcoming Bihar Assembly election. Kaimur district BSP president Chote Lal Ram, at a press meet, said, "Today, we are announcing candidates for three Assembly constituencies: Vikas, alias Lalu Patel, from Bhabua, Om Prakash Diwana from Mohania and Satish Yadav, alias Pintu Yadav, from Ramgarh."

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for procurement and supply the items **(1)** 72,00,000 kgs of sugar **(2)** 3600 kgs of Instant Coffee- Chicory Mixture **(3)** 15,000 Kgs of Atta (Asshirvaad / Pillbury Brand) to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the website **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact Phone Numbers : 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No. 0877-2264554**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.241),Date: 27.09.2025 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
MUHS
Mhasrul, Dindori Road, Nashik-422 004.
Tel: (0253) 2539238 EPABX:0253-2539100,300
Email: law@muhs ac in, Website:http://www.muhs.ac.in

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik invites Expression of Interest (EOI) For entire event management of "MUHS Health Run-2025" on an outsource of funds (sponsorships and collection of donation and CSR) basis.

For the detailed information please visit www.muhs.ac.in.

Dt. 28/09/2025. **Registrar, MUHS, Nashik**

C-DIT
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912/895

TENDER NOTICE
C-DIT invites e tender for the"Supply and Installation of Various Equipments for AR/VR/MR"
Last date: 09.10.2025, 03.00 PM
Tender id:2025_CDIT_803223 _1
For details visit www.cdit.org

27.09.2025 Registrar, C-DIT

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल
संस्थान निर्माण विभाग, भोपाल बायपास रोड, भौरी, भोपाल-462 066
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
Institute Works Department, Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal-462 066

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Superintending Engineer, Institute Works Department, IISER Bhopal on behalf of the Board of Governors invites online percentage rate tenders from CPWD enlisted contractors of appropriate class and other eligible firms / contractors of repute in two envelopes system for the following work:

Sl.No.	NIT No. & Date	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Period
1.	IWD/SE/NIT/2025-26/47 dated 26.09.2025	Lighting and Power supply arrangement for development of land around Niralaya at IISER Bhopal	₹ 21,98,175	₹ 43,964	03 months

The bids forms and other details for application can be obtained from the website **www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.** The press notice is also available in Institute website **www.iiserb.ac.in** and website **www.eprocure.gov.in**.

INBRIEF

Voters may oust BJP if justice is denied to Garg: Himanta

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said the people of the State could vote the Bharatiya Janata Party out in 2026 if the government failed to deliver justice in the case of singer-composer Zubeen Garg's mysterious death in Singapore. In a social media broadcast, the Chief Minister said that the people could punish him if he failed to provide justice to Garg. "Why would you vote for us in 2026 if we cannot ensure justice to Zubeen," he asked. The Chief Minister appealed to Garg's agitated fans not to turn Assam into Nepal by venting their anger on the streets. Seeking patience, he said the special investigation team was doing its job diligently.

Rahul embarks on four-nation South America visit: Congress

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has begun a visit to four South American countries, where he is scheduled to interact with political leaders, students, and businessmen. The Congress media and publicity department in-charge, Pawan Khera, said in a post on X that Mr. Gandhi would meet Presidents and senior leaders across several countries to strengthen democratic and strategic ties. He added that Mr. Gandhi would also engage with business leaders to explore opportunities as India sought to diversify trade and partnership in the wake of U.S. tariffs. His outreach would open a new avenue of cooperation in trade. PTI

2024 Jharkhand Naxal attack key accused chargesheeted

In a statement issued by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), a key accused in the 2024 case relating to an attack by CPI(Maoist) cadres on security forces in Jharkhand has been chargesheeted on Saturday. Abhijeet Koda, alias Sunil Koda, alias Matla Koda, alias Matlu, of Jamui district in Bihar, has been named in the chargesheet. "An armed cadre of CPI(Maoist), Koda was a part of the proscribed terrorist organisation's criminal conspiracy to commit terrorist," the NIA said. Investigations revealed that he was working as a courier and messenger for senior Maoist leaders, and also supported their efforts to expand the outfit. PTI

UNESCO includes India's Cold Desert to global biosphere list

India's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve has been named among 26 new biosphere reserves across several countries, UNESCO announced on Saturday. With this addition, India now has 13 biospheres listed in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Spanning about 7,770 sq. km across the dramatic landscapes of Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district, the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve was included in the WNBR at the 37th session of UNESCO's International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) held in Paris, Union Minister for Environment and Forests Bhupender Yadav said in a post on X.

SUDOKU

				6			7	
		1	5			9		
	8		1				2	5
					8	1		
		4				8		
		7	3					
1	4				2		8	
		3			1	4		
	6			3				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6655 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	3	9	2	6	1	8	4
9	1	8	4	7	5	3	6	2
4	2	6	8	1	3	9	5	7
3	7	5	1	9	8	2	4	6
1	6	2	5	4	7	8	9	3
8	4	9	3	6	2	5	7	1
5	3	7	6	8	1	4	2	9
6	9	1	2	5	4	7	3	8
2	8	4	7	3	9	6	1	5

Handcuffed, chained: woman deported from U.S. in shock

The Hindu Bureau
MOHALI

At her relative's home at Mohali in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar district of Punjab, Harjit Kaur, 73, remains numb following her recent deportation from the U.S. The elderly woman appears disoriented and uncertain about what lies ahead, struggling to come to terms with her sudden return to India after years abroad.

"I am in a state of shock. I can't do anything to go back right now. My children, my family are there in the U.S. They will take some steps. The manner in which they [U.S. authorities] treated me was very bad. I was arrested by the U.S. authorities on September 8 in San Francisco. They handcuffed me, chained my legs and took me to Bakersfield, where I was uncuffed-unchained, where I was kept there for eight to 10 days, and from there they moved me to another holding facility. Later, I was deported to Delhi," said Ms. Kaur, who moved to the U.S. in the early 1990s as an undocumented migrant with her two young sons and settled in California.

Appeals turned down

She had sought asylum in the U.S., but her application appeals were rejected multiple times, the last being in 2012. Since then, she has been reporting to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) every six months.

"After my appeals were rejected, the authorities had pushed for my deportation case, but in the absence of proper documents, it could not happen, and I continued to stay and work in the U.S. I never had a passport. I kept working, paid my taxes and have no criminal record. I had been reporting at the ICE office every six months. But on September 8, during a routine immigration appointment, they arrested me. They didn't give any reason. I don't know what provoked them to deport me in such a manner," said Ms. Kaur, who worked at a "saree-store (women's wear store)" in the U.S.

Harjit Kaur says she sought asylum in the U.S., but her application appeals were rejected multiple times. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

73-year-old Harjit Kaur had moved to the U.S. as an undocumented migrant in the 1990s

Narrating her ordeal during the detention, Ms. Kaur said: "I couldn't eat the food they provided as I am a vegetarian, but they gave non-vegetarian stuff. I survived on chips and biscuits. They didn't pay any heed to requests. I was not provided my medicines; it was an inhumane treatment," she said on Saturday.

Stricter enforcement

Ms. Kaur's arrest and subsequent deportation have come close on the heels of the recent broader immigration enforcement surge under the Donald Trump administration. The External Affairs Ministry said on Friday that over 2,400 Indians had been deported from the U.S. since January. Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "Since January, 2,417 Indians have been deported or repatriated from the U.S."

Political parties have expressed their concern surrounding the deportation episode. All India Congress Committee secretary Pargat Singh, MLA, has strongly condemned the deportation of Ms. Kaur from the U.S., calling it "inhuman and unacceptable". He questioned the Union government's foreign policy, asking why India remains silent as its citizens face humiliation abroad.

"Harjit Kaur, who had lived in the U.S. for over 30 years, was shackled and confined in a concrete cell before being forced onto a deportation flight. This treatment violates basic human rights and has deeply hurt the sentiments of Punjabis worldwide," Mr. Singh said in a statement.

Aam Aadmi Party State spokesperson Neel Garg said: "It is unfortunate. The inhumane treatment of an elderly woman can't be justified. On the one hand, the U.S claims to be the greatest democracy, but on the other hand, it indulges in such kind of treatment, which is unacceptable."

First bullet train section to be completed by 2027

Vaishnaw inspects works at under-construction Surat station, including track installation; entire Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor is likely to be ready by 2029, with more routes planned, he says

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

India's first bullet train project is progressing steadily, with the initial 50-km stretch between Surat and Bilimora in Gujarat set to open in 2027, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on Saturday. The entire Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor is expected to be operational by 2029.

Once launched, the high-speed train will cover the 508-km distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in just two hours and seven minutes.

On track: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the Surat bullet train station on Saturday. PTI

"The project is advancing very well. The Surat-Bilimora section will be ready by 2027, the Thane-Ahmedabad stretch by 2028, and the full corridor by 2029," Mr. Vaishnaw said, after inspecting works at the under-construction Surat station, including track installation and the project's first turnout (a point where tracks join or separate).

The main line has been designed for speeds up to 320 kmph, with 80 kmph for the loop line. To ensure safety and efficiency, advanced technologies have been deployed. "This is a highly complex train operation, which is why the most modern systems are being used. Special vibration mechanisms and utility cables have been set up to absorb the impact when trains run at 320 kmph. Even the tracks have inbuilt systems to counter vibrations," the Minister explained.

He added that the tracks featured safety measures to keep trains stable during heavy winds or earthquakes.

Work at the Surat station has entered the final stages, with major construction works complete. Mr. Vaishnaw highlighted the use of new technologies, including roller bearings for track movement and composite sleepers.

"Today, we installed the first turnout at Surat station using innovations being applied in India for the first time," he said. Calling the bullet train a game-changer, he said the project would link economies of all major cities along the route, similar to the growth in Japan after the Shinkansen's launch.

He also noted that the BJP has promised to expand the network, with three more corridors planned in the north, one in the east, and one in the south, in addition to the western Mumbai-Ahmedabad line.

SC asks why student denied transfer for mental healthcare

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has stepped in to enquire why the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur was not letting a Scheduled Caste (SC) student with borderline personality disorder transfer to the IIT, Delhi, where he could get affordable mental health care at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi while being with his parents.

The case is one of the first since the court declared "mental health an integral component of the right to life" in a judgment in July. Setting comprehensive guidelines for institutions of every nature to protect students with mental health issues and engage with them, the court had recognised the right to affordable mental health care services as a "Constitutional mandate".

The Supreme Court declared mental health as part of the right to life in July.

Notice issued

An order published on Saturday recorded that a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan issued notice to the IITs of Kharagpur and Delhi, and AIIMS, on September 26, in the case of the IIT, Kharagpur student, whose name has been kept anonymous. The Bench scheduled the case for October 10, during the opening week of work after the Dasara vacation.

In his petition, the first-year Bachelor of Architecture student, represented by advocates Vipin Nair, Aditya Narendranath and M.B. Ramya, said his documented medical condition required specialised Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy, available at the AIIMS, Delhi, along with continuous parental supervision. The "life-preserving" therapy is also available at Kolkata, but only in expensive private medical hospitals.

Not just one-horned rhino, Kaziranga Park also harbours a rich variety of insects, spiders

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, the world's safest address for the one-horned rhino, has revealed a rich community of insects and spiders.

A new rapid survey report documented 283 species of insects and spiders in a woodland habitat of the tiger reserve. It was conducted by entomologists with the Corbett Foundation, along with Kaziranga's frontline forest personnel.

The report and related information booklets were released on September 26 by Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, the MP representing the Kaziranga Lok Sabha constituency, Khumtai MLA Mrinal Saikia, and Assam's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Vinay Gupta.

The study recorded 254 species of insects and 29 species of spiders, which forest officials said was a vital step toward understanding Kaziranga's "overlooked" biodiversity. They said the findings highlight the urgent need to take insect conservation seriously, especially as climate change threatens to accelerate species loss.

Dazzling array: A jewel beetle (*Demochroa gratiosa indica*) and green snout lanternfly (*Pyrops viridirostris*) found in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Butterflies and moths accounted for 85 species or 30% of Kaziranga's insects, while 40 species (14%) of ants, bees, and wasps, and 35 species (12%) of beetles were recorded.

"Conducted through visual estimation with photographs using scientific sampling methods, this landmark survey reveals the park's often-overlooked micro-faunal richness," Assam's Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister, Chandra Mohan Patowary, said.

He said the State government was committed to conserving all forms of biodiversity, including the smallest but crucial life forms.

"Worldwide, nearly 40% of insect species are in decline due to habitat loss, deforestation, and climate change. While Kaziranga is celebrated for its megafauna, this study shows that its resilience depends just as much on the small pollinators, soil aerators, and natural pest-controllers that keep the ecosystem functioning," Sonali Ghosh, the Director of the tiger reserve, said.

Officials underlined the vital ecological role the insects and spiders play, facilitating seed dispersal, helping maintain soil health and regenerate plants, forming the very foundation of the food web that sustains Kaziranga's iconic wildlife.

"The findings highlight the park's status as a true hotspot of invertebrate diversity," Ms Ghosh said.

Kaziranga is better known for its Big Five species – the Indian rhinoceros, Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, and eastern swamp deer.

The 1,307.49-sq. km tiger reserve has the most one-horned rhinos on earth, the last estimation recording 2,613 individuals. It also has the third-highest density of tigers (18.65 individuals per 100 sq. km), according to a 2024 report.

Students flag 27 varsities denying farm course seats

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Students who studied agriculture, biology, and chemistry in higher secondary classes have complained to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) that over 27 universities are denying them admission to the B.Sc. agriculture course.

Several MLAs and parents have written to the authorities, pointing out that some universities have made it mandatory that only those who are from the physics, chemistry, and mathematics or physics, chemistry, and biology group were being considered. ICAR Director-General Mangi Lal Jat convened a virtual meeting with Vice-Chancellors, following which some universities decided to review the norms.

INBRIEF

Dubai HDFC Bank barred from onboarding new clients

HDFC Bank has been barred from onboarding new customers at its Dubai International Financial Centre branch by the local regulator. HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector lender, said it has initiated the necessary steps to comply with the notice of the Dubai Financial Services Authority and added that it does not see any material impact from it. Exact details of the alleged violations leading to the action against HDFC Bank were not immediately clear. PTI

Aurobindo Pharma arm sets up subsidiary in Malta

Generic drugmaker Aurobindo Pharma arm CuraTeQ Biologics B.V. has set up a subsidiary in Malta. The wholly owned step-down subsidiary has been incorporated to expand pharmaceutical products business in Malta, the company said. CuraTeQ Biologics (Malta) has been set up with an initial subscription to the share capital of euro 1200, divided into 1,200 shares with a nominal value of euro 1 each, Aurobindo Pharma said in a filing on Friday.

India opens probe on TB drug ethambutol hydrochloride

India has launched an anti-dumping investigation on imports of tuberculosis drug Ethambutol Hydrochloride from China and Thailand. Based on an application filed by drugmaker Lupin, the probe by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies, under the Commerce and Industry Ministry, will determine the case for imposition of an anti-dumping duty on the imports. Lupin said the product dumped are identical to the goods produced by the domestic industry.

U.S.'s HIRE Bill may choke India's IT, BPM, GCC sectors

The proposed tax aims to discourage U.S. firms from outsourcing jobs overseas; directly targets the revenue stream of Indian IT firms which derive 50-60% of their total revenue from the U.S.

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

HIRE Bill that proposes a 25% excise tax on payments made by U.S. entities to foreign service providers poses a significant threat to India's IT, and ITeS sectors as well as the Global Capability Centre (GCCs) operations, as the tax, along with the denial of tax deductibility for these payments, could drastically alter the cost structures for U.S. companies and consequently result in reshaping the operations of Indian tech industry pegged at $260 billion, industry experts told *The Hindu*.

The HIRE (Halting International Relocation of Employment) Act of 2025 is a recently proposed U.S. Bill, introduced by Republican Senator Bernie Moreno this month, to discourage American companies from outsourcing jobs overseas.

The Bill proposes to impose a 25% excise tax on payments made by U.S. entities for outsourced work that benefits American consumers and would also make these payments non-deductible for tax purposes. "The proposed tax directly targets the revenue stream of Indian IT firms, which derive 50-60% of their total revenue from the U.S. The bill could increase client costs by up to 46% when the disallowance of deductions is factored in, which could slash the core operating profits (EBITDA) of major Indian IT companies by 4% to 8%," said Avinash Vashistha, Global Chairman & CEO, Tholons, a New York-based GCC and IT services consulting firm, and former CMD of Accenture India.

Tight corner: For leading Indian IT firms, the tax could compress operating margins by 300 to 700 basis points. K.V.S. GIRI

For leading Indian IT firms, the tax could compress operating margins by 300 to 700 basis points.

'Speed up nearshoring'

While large firms with 20-22% margins might be able to absorb the impact, mid-tier firms with 12-15% margins would be far more vulnerable, Mr. Vashistha explained. Elaborating how an operational shift or change in business model is likely to take place in the industry, he said, "Indian firms may need to renegotiate contracts to share increased costs with clients.

The tax could also accelerate the move towards hybrid and nearshoring models, where some work is moved to other countries like Canada, Colombia and Mexico to remain close to U.S. clients."

Mr. Vashishta also said the Bill highlighted India's significant reliance on the U.S. market and underscored the need for the IT industry to transition from a cost-arbitrage model to a capability-led one by repositioning themselves as innovation hubs and increase investments in R&D, data science, and AI to remain competitive.

Kamal Karanth, co-founder, Xpheno, a specialist tech staffing firm, said irrespective of the skill and innovation arbitrage that India offered to clients, the cost arbitrage still remained as a significant factor, especially on long-duration high value tech projects for clients, he argued adding, the HIRE Act could significantly challenge the cost-arbitrage factor, making it expensive for clients to purchase tech services from India.

Mr. Karanth further said, the exposure of small and midcap IT service firms was equal, if not higher, to that of the large IT service players. The small and midcap players have a relatively higher agility to reconfigure for the future, however they also have to brace for a higher risk based on how their client spread is configured currently.

However, B.S. Murthy, CEO of Leadership Capital, a CXO consulting firm said, the HIRE Bill may not see the light of day as big tech firms in the U.S. may strongly resist its introduction. The ask of taxing tech exports from India, directly or indirectly, has been there for long, but the U.S. Congress and earlier Presidents have not moved on it as it was impractical, he noted.

"You need to see the whole narrative in a different angle. The best paying jobs were taken away by non-Americans till date. The new visa fees might make sure big tech firms hire natives in their future needs to fuel growth in the era of AI & quantum," commented Mr. Murthy.

Millions of jobs at stake

"At the current level of exposure, HIRE Bill, if passed can impact 40%-60% of over the 2.5 million IT service cohort's workforce," Mr. Karanth estimated. While Mr. Vashistha said 30-40% of India's IT-BPM workforce to be impacted.

iSPIRT asks PMO to hold ground on digital sovereignty in U.S. trade talks

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A digital sovereignty law is needed to expand Indian capacity in technology, it said

The Indian Software Product Industry Roundtable (iSPIRT), which has had a major role in promoting Aadhaar and the India Stack (comprising technologies like DigiLocker and FasTAG) in their early days, urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to push back on "concessions on source code access, cross-border data flows, open government data, local presence, and prohibitions on digital custom duties," arguing that these accommodations would undermine India's "digital sovereignty".

A "digital sovereignty law" was needed to "expand Indian capacity" in technology, iSPIRT said. The letter comes following India's concessions on access to source code – something foreign firms insist on to protect their proprietary products – and making "open government data" available, in the bilateral trade agreement with the U.K.

The letter to the PMO was co-signed by the Science Indigenous Technology & Advanced Research Accelerator.

It also comes after Microsoft's briefly cut Nayara, an Indo-Russian oil refinery in Gujarat, from essential services, citing European Union sanctions.

"The Nayara case, where Microsoft and SAP withdrew essential cloud services due to EU sanctions, also illustrates our vulnerability," iSPIRT said.

"Indian courts, *lacking the legal framework for holding global digital companies accountable*, refused interim relief for Nayara." (emphasis theirs)

"Earlier, on being summoned by the Supreme Court of India regarding content regulation issues, Google India had deflected responsibility to its US parent ... India, with its vast market and rapidly expanding digital economy, cannot allow foreign digital platforms to siphon off Indian data and profits and potentially weaponise it, while hiding behind foreign jurisdictions."

"When foreign platforms can withdraw cloud services overnight, or when trade agreements propose binding rules on cross-border data flows, algorithms, and digital taxes, the effect is to erode the state's capacity to govern its own digital economy," Manav Gudwani, a research fellow studying technology sovereignty issues at the Takshashila Institution told *The Hindu*.

"Sovereignty means retaining the freedom to regulate data, protect critical infrastructure," Mr. Gudwani added.

INSCO completes acquisition of Hindustan National Glass & Industries via IBC process

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The transaction concludes one of the most high-profile insolvency cases after 7 years of litigations

Independent Sugar Corporation Limited (INSCO), a part of Uganda-based Madhvani Group, said it had completed the acquisition of Hindustan National Glass & Industries Limited (HNGIL), a container glass manufacturer, through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process.

On Friday, in a duly convened meeting of HNGIL's newly constituted board, the company formally recorded the conclusion of this transition, clearing the way for INSCO to assume full control, the company said in a statement. The acquisition is led by industrialists Kamlesh Madhvani and Shrai Madhvani, with financial support from Cerberus Capital Management and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The ₹2,250 crore Resolution Plan was approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on August 14, 2025, and has since also received approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI), the company said. Following NCLT's approval, the formal acquisition process began, and a 45-day Monitoring (Transition) Phase was carried out to oversee all transitional matters and ensure a smooth handover, The Monitoring Committee has stepped down, and a new Board nominated by INSCO and the Madhvani Group has taken charge.

The transaction concludes one of India's most high-profile insolvency cases after seven years of litigations and a Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) that began in October 2021.

PNGRB moots natural gas pipeline from Ennore to Kondapalli

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has set in motion the process for developing a natural gas pipeline from Ennore LNG Terminal in Tamil Nadu to Kondapalli, Andhra Pradesh.

The facility is being mooted with an eye on meeting the requirement of natural gas in the two States, the regulator said, initiating a suomotu proposal earlier this month. It estimated the length of the proposed pipeline from Ennore - Nellore - Ongole - Guntur - Amravati - Kondapalli to be around 450 kms.

The length of the proposed pipeline from Ennore terminal to Kondapalli is around 450 km.

The minimum system capacity, including common carrier capacity, will be 5 MMSCMD, PNGRB said, announcing the commencement of the public consultation process.

Oil India discovers natural gas in Andaman

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Oil India Ltd. has discovered natural gas reserves off the Andaman Islands, the state-owned firm said without putting an estimate of the size of the find.

In a statement, OIL said "occurrence of natural gas" was reported in the second exploratory well Vijayapuram-2 drilled in the Offshore Andaman Block AN-OSHP-2018/1, which the company had won under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy. "Further gas isotope studies are being undertaken so as to understand the genesis of the gas," Oil India said.

APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Dept. Of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112
Tamil Nadu – India. Phone: 044 – 27472046, 27472113, 27472423
Email: niepmd@gov.in. website: www.niepmd.nic.in
~ (Re-Accredited by NAAC B+2nd Cycle)~ ~ ISO 9001:2015~

Employment Notice No. 04 (R)/2025

NIEPMD(D) invites applications from Indian Nationals, who fulfill the prescribed qualification, experience, age and other conditions for filling up the following sanctioned regular post, as per the details given:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Group / Scale of pay	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Associate Professor (Medical Science) Reserved for OBC in case of Direct recruitment	01 (One)	GROUP - A Rs.78,800/- to Rs. 2,09,200/- Level -12 (7th CPC)	Direct Recruitment / Deputation basis / Promotion

For detailed advertisement, essential/desirable qualifications, age limit, format of application and the recruitment fee details etc., please visit website: **www.niepmd.nic.in.** The last date of receipt of applications and necessary documents is **21 days** from the date of publication in Employment News.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर

क्रमांक :– जसअ / 2025 / 222 दिनांक: 23.09.2025

ई–निविदा सूचना सं. – 136/2025–26

केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सभी विभागों में पंजीकृत "AA" "A" श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से बिड अधि0 अभि0 (मालवीय नगर जोन) से सम्बन्धित विकास कार्यो की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्यो की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण ई निविदा सूचना संख्या– 136 / 2025–26 दिनांक 23.09.2025 से नगर निगम जयपुर ग्रेटर की वेबसाईट **www.jaipurmc.org.com** व राजस्थान सरकार के पोर्टल **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** से अपलोड की जा सकती है। स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल का **Unique Bid Number (UBN) JMC2526WSOB01383** तक है।

अधिशाषी अभियंता
(मालवीय नगर जोन)
नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर

राज.संवाद / सी / 25 / 10892

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT
Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. 751001

Selection of a consulting agency for Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) under PMFBY in Cooperation Department

1. Special Secretary to Govt., Cooperation Department, (The Client) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from the eligible bidders for selection of a consulting agency for PMU under PMFBY in Cooperation Department, Govt. of Odisha.
2. Scope of work, eligibility requirement and other details may be seen in the website of Cooperation Department ***https:/coop.odisha.gov.in.*** The RFP document may be downloaded from the above website.
3. Last date for receipt of sealed Proposal is **20.10.2025 by 5.00 P.M.** (only in **Speed Post** mode)
4. Opening of RFP will be on **22.10.2025** in the Conference Hall of Govt., Cooperation Department, Lok Seva Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar Pin-751001.
5. Pre-bid consultation with intending bidders will be on **09.10.2025** in the Conference Hall of Cooperation Department.
6. All queries for the pre-Bid meeting must be submitted in the email **coopsec.or@od.gov.in** before **04.10.2025, 5.00 PM**.

Bidders Datasheet

SL.No.	Particular	Details
1.	Name of the Client	Special Secretary to Government, Co-operation Department
2.	Method of Selection	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
3.	Date of the Issue of RFP	26.09.2025
4.	Last Date of Submission of Bid	20.10.2025
5.	Date of Opening of Proposal	22.10.2025
6.	Address for Submission of Proposal	Special Secretary to Government, Co-operation Department, Lokseva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Pin-751001

LL-17: OIPR-39001/11/0037/2526

ODISHA MODEL TRIBAL EDUCATION SOCIETY (OMTES)
ST & SC DEVELOPMENT, M & BCW DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Request for Proposal no 865/ Date 26/09/2025

Sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) are requested from interested Event Management Agencies to provide event management services during **4th National EMRS Sports Meet, 2025 to be organised at Sundargarh district from 11th to 15th November 2025.**

For details of the Request for Proposal, please visit website - **www.omtes.org** and **http://stsc.odisha.gov.in**

Last date for Tender submission is **23rd October 2025 5.00PM**

Sd/-
Secretary, OMTES

CAD- OIPR - 26009/11/0011/2526

आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

AVANI
सर्वा: प्रदिशो जयेम
CIN-U35990TN2021GOI14550

ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Invitation for Channel Partners

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), a premier Defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, invites strategic channel partners for exporting AVNL products in international markets.

Our Products in Service with the Indian Army & Paramilitary Forces

- Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun
- T-72 Tank & its spares
- T-90 Tank & its spares
- ICV BMP-II & its spares
- V46-6 engine for T-72 Tank and Spares
- V92S2 engine for T-90 Tank and Spares
- UTD-20 engine for ICV BMP-II and spares
- Mine Protected Vehicle in 4*4 & 6*6 versions
- Naval Gun CRN-91
- Kavach Decoy System for Naval Ship

Why Partner with AVNL?

- Trusted OEM to the Indian Army & Navy
- Proven track record of performance and reliability
- Opportunities for joint ventures, technology exchange, and exports
- Strong alignment with the **'Make in India'** and **Defence Export** initiatives

We welcome **defence industry leaders, distributors and regional partners** from countries of **Africa, Gulf, South East Asia and Central Asia** to join hands with AVNL in fulfilling global defence requirements.

For Partnership & Enquiries

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL),
A Central Public Sector Enterprise
Ministry of Defence
HVF Road, Avadi, Chennai-600054
Email: **Export@avnl.co.in**
Phone: 91-044-26843317
Mobile: 9962720029

Study finds the Ganga river is drying faster than in 1,300 years

The Hindu Bureau

The Ganga river sustains a population of more than 600 million people and is central to South Asia's economy and culture – and it's drying at a rate unseen in more than a millennium, per a new study by researchers from IIT Gandhinagar and the University of Arizona. The study reconstructed the river's streamflow and found that the decline in flow since the 1990s could be unprecedented. The authors have linked this drying to a combination of weaker summer monsoons, human-driven changes in land and water use, and broader climate shifts.

If the findings are validated by more research, the Ganga has entered a period of droughts more prolonged and intense than the great arid spells of the 14th and 16th centuries. The Ganga basin accounts for 40% of India's GDP.

The researchers combined tree-ring records from the Monsoon Asia Drought Atlas with hydrological models, thus filling a crucial gap in long-term flow records. The researchers were thus able to reconstruct streamflow dating to 700 AD. Then they validated this reconstruction against historical droughts and famines, including that in Bengal in the 18th century, and against modern data. Finally, they compared these reconstructions with climate model projections to test whether the current drying could be explained by natural variability alone.

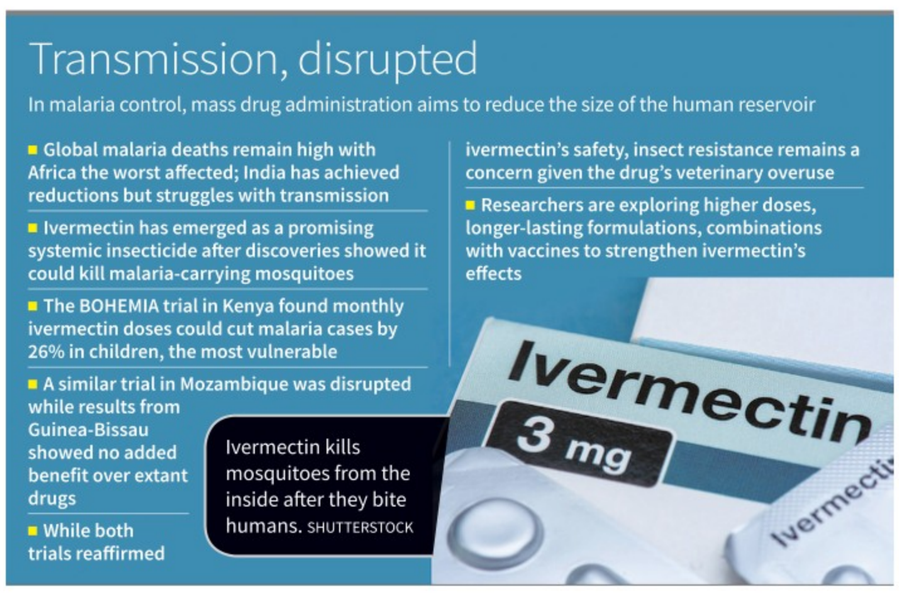
Between 1991 and 2020, they found, the basin experienced multiple four- to seven-year droughts, which were far rarer than in the previous millennium. The 2004-2010 drought was the most severe in 1,300 years. Overall, the post-1990s drying was estimated to be 76% more intense than the worst 16th century drought. Statistical analyses pointed to weaker monsoons linked to rapid Indian Ocean warming and aerosol pollution, groundwater pumping reducing baseflow, and land-use changes.

According to the team's paper, published in *PNAS* on September 23, the findings question the reliability of current global climate models, most of which don't reproduce the observed drying trend. Indeed, even as some climate models project wetter conditions in the future, the inability to simulate recent drying means planning can't bank on optimistic forecasts alone but must also involve adaptive water management that accounts for both natural and human drivers.

Can an ivermectin pill keep malaria from being transmitted?

At the BOHEMIA trial in Kenya, researchers found malaria cases dropped by 26% among children aged 5-15 years; children living farther from untreated areas enjoyed even greater protection

Manjeera Gowravaram


Transmission, disrupted
In malaria control, mass drug administration aims to reduce the size of the human reservoir
Global malaria deaths remain high with Africa the worst affected; India has achieved reductions but struggles with transmission
Ivermectin has emerged as a promising systemic insecticide after discoveries showed it could kill malaria-carrying mosquitoes
The BOHEMIA trial in Kenya found monthly ivermectin doses could cut malaria cases by 26% in children, the most vulnerable
A similar trial in Mozambique was disrupted while results from Guinea-Bissau showed no added benefit over extant drugs
While both trials reaffirmed ivermectin's safety, insect resistance remains a concern given the drug's veterinary overuse
Researchers are exploring higher doses, longer-lasting formulations, combinations with vaccines to strengthen ivermectin's effects
Ivermectin kills mosquitoes from the inside after they bite humans. SHUTTERSTOCK
Ivermectin
3 mg

While the world's fight against malaria made remarkable progress in 2000-2015, the momentum has declined of late. In 2023, malaria claimed nearly 6 lakh lives, 95% in the African region. India has made dramatic progress, too, with malaria cases dropping by over 80% in the last decade. However, some districts in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and the Northeast continue to struggle with persistent transmission.

This lingering threat has revived attention towards the mass administration of endectocides, systemic insecticides that work from inside the human body. Of these, ivermectin has reportedly stood out as the most promising.

Since the 1970s, ivermectin has become a cornerstone of global campaigns against river blindness and lymphatic filariasis. A surprising discovery later expanded its potential: mosquitoes that bit people treated with ivermectin often died or didn't live long enough to spread malaria. This sparked renewed interest in using ivermectin as a vector control tool in malaria-endemic regions. Subsequent modelling and pilot studies suggested that mass administration of ivermectin could help lower infection rates by shrinking the mosquito population.

To test this idea in the real world, scientists launched the BOHEMIA trial in Kenya and Mozambique, and the findings were published recently in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

In Kenya, the trial was conducted in Kwale County, a coastal region with year-round malaria transmission despite 85% bed net coverage. The villagers were randomly given either ivermectin or albendazole (an anti-parasitic drug that doesn't affect mosquitoes) once a month for more than three months starting in October 2023. Children aged 5 to 15, who are among the most vulnerable, were then monitored for six months.

The result: malaria cases dropped by 26% in the ivermectin group, exceeding the WHO's threshold to be considered a valuable public health tool. Children living farther from untreated areas had even greater protection.

More than 56,000 doses were administered during the study, and the participants reported no serious side effects. However, the trial excluded pregnant women and children under 15 kg of body weight.

The Mozambique trial couldn't yield conclusive results as the researchers' operations were disrupted by Cyclone Gombe.

In November 2024, a trial in Guinea-Bissau called MATAMAL involved more than 25,000 people in 24 villages. It tested whether adding ivermectin to an already strong malaria treatment program, which used the drug dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine, could make the programme work better.

Contrary to expectations, there was no significant difference in malaria prevalence between villages that received ivermectin and those that received a placebo. In fact, there were slightly more malaria cases in the ivermectin group, with no clear impact on mosquito survival or infection rates. Researchers concluded that the timing and dosing used in this trial may not have been sufficient to add value to existing interventions.

Despite mixed results, both trials reaffirmed ivermectin's safety in large-scale campaigns. Side effects were mild and temporary, mostly headaches and dizziness.

Ivermectin also offered an advantage over traditional malaria control tools. Bed nets, indoor spraying, and larvicides target mosquitoes that bite indoors and at night. But mosquitoes evolve – some now bite earlier, outdoors or even feed on livestock – making it harder to keep them at bay. On the other hand, ivermectin kills mosquitoes from the inside after they bite humans, regardless of time or location.

The BOHEMIA team also found significant collateral benefits. In Kenya, e.g., many noticed a dramatic drop in bed bugs.

As with all widespread interventions, resistance is a looming concern. A 2024 review in *Parasitology Research* highlighted the growing resistance to ivermectin in ectoparasites like ticks, lice, and scabies mites, mostly due to overuse in veterinary medicine. While resistance among human parasites is rare, there's little data on its impact on *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

Only two out of 18 reviewed studies examined ivermectin's impact on mosquito populations, highlighting a gap in surveillance.

Should resistance emerge, the drug's value as a malaria control tool could diminish rapidly. And the drug's widespread use for scabies, lice, and livestock parasites may make resistance develop faster.

Researchers have also warned that as ivermectin's mass administration expands, resistance in non-target organisms must be closely monitored, as this risk is often overlooked. Ivermectin affects many parasites, so targeting one species may accelerate resistance in others. In regions with multiple parasites, the chosen doses might favour the target but harm broader control efforts.

To stay ahead, researchers are exploring longer-lasting formulations, higher doses, and combining ivermectin with malaria vaccines or genetically modified mosquitoes.

Manjeera Gowravaram has a PhD in RNA biochemistry and works as a freelance science writer

Has AI finally solved your email problem?

DECODED

John Xavier

For as long as email has been a staple in the workplace, it has also been a source of stress. The relentless stream of newsletters, meeting invites, updates, and follow-ups creates an unspoken pressure: maintain control over your inbox or risk missing something crucial. This is how the philosophy of "Inbox Zero" emerged on the belief that a clean inbox equates to a clear mind.

In today's world, with AI-driven tools promising to read, write, sort, and even reply on our behalf, it might seem like the battle is finally over. Applications like Superhuman offer smart suggestions in your writing, Gmail encourages you to respond to old threads, and Microsoft has introduced AI copilots that can draft entire replies in seconds. Most recently, Perplexity AI announced that its Max users can schedule meetings via email by just invoking a virtual assistant.

However, before declaring victory, it's important to question whether these tools are genuinely solving the problem or merely disguising it under a more polished interface.

There's no denying the progress made by AI tools. They have eliminated some of the friction that used to consume hours of our days. Faster writing is achieved through smart autocomplete and AI drafting, reducing the time spent staring at a blank reply box. Grammar and tone suggestions help polish your messages without effort, catching mistakes and smoothing over awkward phrasing.

Treat AI as a helper, not a replacement. REUTERS

Additionally, thread summaries allow you to catch up on lengthy email chains without scrolling through dozens of messages. These features are invaluable for straightforward communication like confirming a meeting time, acknowledging receipt, sending an agenda. They help keep things moving and reduce the burden of low-value writing.

However, the real challenge with email isn't the time it takes to type. Most people struggle with decision-making – determining which messages matter, what to prioritise, and how to phrase responses that build trust and clarity. While AI can draft polite responses, it can't decide whether a message should be answered now, later, or not at all.

Automation can create a false sense of control. An inbox filled with AI-sorted folders and machine-generated replies may appear tidy, but the underlying clutter remains unresolved. If the workflow around email isn't fixed, AI only accelerates the noise.

So, the real path to "Inbox Zero" isn't about letting AI handle more of your messages. It's about reshaping how you use email in the first place. This requires two things: clear systems and thoughtful use of AI. Define how and when you process messages.

For example, check email at set times instead of grazing all day. Decide in advance what gets archived, delegated, or escalated. Without this discipline, AI will only magnify the mess. Treat AI as a helper, not a replacement.

Let it draft routine messages, but add your own context and judgment. Use summaries to speed up comprehension, but confirm important details yourself. The goal isn't to eliminate effort, but to reserve your energy for the parts of communication that matter most.

Think of it this way: email isn't a typing problem; it's a thinking problem. AI is excellent at typing. You still need to do the thinking.

The dream of Inbox Zero may never fully match the marketing promise of a "done-for-you" inbox. But that's not a bad thing. A truly empty inbox doesn't necessarily mean a clear mind; it just means messages have been moved somewhere else.

The real value comes when technology helps you focus on what only you can decide: which relationships to nurture, which opportunities to pursue, which problems to escalate.

That clarity doesn't come from smarter algorithms, but from designing smarter habits. AI can help tidy the edges, but the centre of the inbox problem still needs a human.

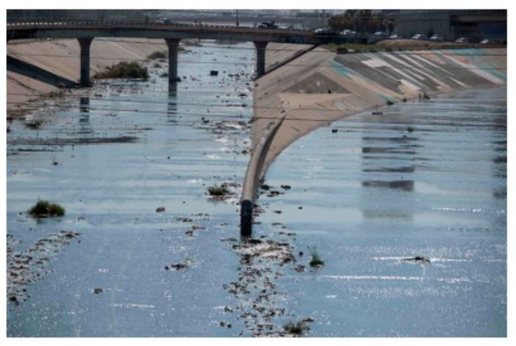
SNAPSHOTS

Hidden magma 'link' could explain Santorini quakes

In January 2025, Greece was struck by swarms of quakes over a month. Using satellites, seismometers, and ground sensors, researchers have now found this could have been because two neighbouring volcanoes, Santorini and Kolumbo, shared a magma chamber. The authors found that a sheet of magma had pushed its way up for 13 km. Thus, a magma reservoir beneath Kolumbo lost volume while the ground at Santorini swelled upward. The data showed the two volcanoes are connected deep underground.

Indus river dolphins eating lots of microplastics

Indus river dolphins are ingesting large amounts of microplastics, researchers said after examining the stomachs and intestines of five stranded dolphins. They found microplastics, most of which were textile fibres and many were made of the packaging plastic PET. The plastics were especially concentrated in the small intestine. The findings suggest the animals are exposed through direct ingestion and via contaminated prey. The dolphins' living conditions are an important barometer of the Indus river's health.



Wastewater treatment does not remove all drugs

Researchers testing wastewater treatment plants found that while some drugs, such as naproxen and salicylic acid, were fully removed, fluoxetine, carbamazepine, and metoprolol were found in high amounts in sludge while ibuprofen, sulphamethoxazole, and ketoprofen were only partly removed. Risk tests showed fluoxetine and loratadine pose the highest danger to algae, tiny crustaceans, and fish, with ibuprofen and sulphamethoxazole also of concern.

Question Corner

Teary eyes

Why does sadness cause us to shed tears?

Sadness can sometimes overwhelm the body to the point that it produces tears. These tears, called emotional tears, are different from the ones that keep our eyes moist or flush out irritants like dust or vapours from cut onions. They are triggered by deep activity in the brain's emotion-processing centres, especially the hypothalamus, which links feelings to physical responses. When a person feels grief or despair, this region activates the lacrimal glands, which release more tears.
Studies have shown that emotional tears may contain higher amounts of stress-related hormones, so shedding them could partly restore balance. The act of crying also activates the parasympathetic nervous system, which slows the heart and promotes relaxation, leaving people calmer afterwards.
Tears signal that someone is in distress and can invite care, comfort or understanding from people around them. Unlike loud sobs, visible tears can be a silent yet reliable cue that a person is vulnerable.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Why is Ladakh's tribal population restive?

What led to the violence? What are the protesters' demands? Why has activist Sonam Wangchuk been arrested?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

On September 26, prominent educationist and climate activist of Ladakh, Sonam Wangchuk, was detained under the National Security Act (NSA), 1980 for disrupting public order. Mr. Wangchuk was on the fifteenth day of a 35-day hunger strike when violent protests erupted in Leh city which led to the death of four people and injuries to around 150 people, including security personnel.

Why was the hunger strike called?

For the past five years, civil society groups have been demanding protection of land, resources and employment for Ladakh. The special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was read down by Parliament on August 5, 2019 and the State was split into two Union Territories – J&K and Ladakh, the latter without an Assembly. The fear of big businesses and conglomerates taking away land and jobs from the local people led to this demand. As per the 2011 Census, the total population of Ladakh was 2,74,289.

On September 10, Mr. Wangchuk, on behalf of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), announced a 35-day hunger strike along with 15 others to demand the resumption of talks with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). They had four demands: inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (tribal status), Statehood, separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil, and filling of existing government vacancies.

After Ladakh became a UT, civil society groups have been campaigning for inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule, Statehood, and safeguards for land, jobs

What is the framework of the talks?

In January 2023, following campaigns by groups in Kargil and Leh demanding constitutional safeguards, protection of land, preservation of culture and demand for employment opportunities, the government formed a High-Powered Committee (HPC) headed by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai. The committee comprised members of LAB and KDA and civil society representatives, who rejected the HPC, saying only pro-government members appeared to have been picked. The HPC was reconstituted on November 30, 2023. The terms of reference of the committee are: measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance; to ensure protection of land and employment for the people of Ladakh; to discuss measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region; to discuss measures related to the empowerment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil and to examine constitutional safeguards for the measures. The talks broke down in March 2024. On October 6, 2024, Mr. Wangchuk sat on an indefinite fast in Delhi to draw the government's attention to their demands, following which the MHA agreed to resume talks. The HPC, including leaders from Leh and Kargil, met on December 3, 2024, followed by another meeting on January 15, 2025. The committee last met on May 27. The members also met Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence the following day.

What happened since the last round of talks?

Following the meeting, on June 3, President Droupadi Murmu notified four Regulations for the Union Territory of Ladakh, defining new policies on reservation, languages, domiciles and composition of hill councils for Ladakh. The Regulations paved the way for 85% reservation for resident Ladakhis in government jobs. The Ladakh groups allege that their core demands of Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule have not been met.

What is the government's stand?

Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association and co-convenor of the LAB, which had been spearheading the protests, told *The Hindu* that Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on his visit to Ladakh on July 1 had assured them a discussion on the two points. The MHA had informed a parliamentary standing committee in 2022 that the objective for inclusion of a tribal population under the Sixth Schedule is to ensure its overall socio-economic development. It said the UT administration had already been taking care of this aspect and that sufficient funds were being provided to Ladakh.

After the violent protests, the MHA said in a statement that it had been actively engaged with LAB and KDA and a series of meetings were held. "The process of dialogue through this mechanism has yielded phenomenal results by increasing reservations for Ladakh's Scheduled Tribe[s] from 45% to 84%, providing one-third reservations to women in the councils and declaring Bhoti and Purgi as official languages. With this process of recruitment, 1,800 posts opened up for tribals," the MHA said.

What does Trump's latest H-1B directive state?

What will be the consequences for both American and immigrant workers? Do overseas workers displace Americans in tech jobs? What do surveys show? What are immigration lawyers saying? What are the trends likely to play out in the tech sector?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

On September 19, U.S. President Donald Trump signed a proclamation increasing the fee for processing H-1B visas by about 60 times to $1,00,000. The White House underlined that the objective was to help "curb abuses that displace U.S. workers and undermine national security". A tentative calm returned when Washington clarified the revised fee would only be for new applications, starting September 21, and not for present visa-holders or those up for renewal.

What is the purpose of the hike?

The entire contestation revolves around the perception that the H-1B visa programme was leading to a "disadvantageous labour market for American citizens". The H-1B programme seeks to help employers in the U.S. obtain crucial skills and abilities, not existing within the current local workforce, by authorising them to temporarily bring certain specialised talent from overseas to work in the U.S. However, the White House argues the programme has been exploited to make it challenging for U.S. STEM graduates to find jobs. This is because companies prefer to hire foreign workers at a "significant discount". It has been misused to the extent where tech companies have fired their domestic workforce in favour of H-1B workers, the White House alleges.

What's the argument for legal migration?

In a survey conducted by the U.S.-based think tank Pew Research Centre in 2024, about 40% of respondents believed high-skilled workers should be given top priority for legal immigration. About 60% of respondents said legal immigrants fill jobs that U.S. citizens do not want. Further, Daniel Aobdia, former professor of accounting information and management at the Kellogg School of Management (U.S.), had investigated these questions in 2016 with respect to H-1B workers hired as auditors. He observed that the workers, most of whom attended U.S. schools, took jobs in "less desirable offices or that [which] require highly specialised skills". Thus, he inferred, "they complement – rather than displace – U.S. workers". His research came across no evidence that hiring more H-1B workers lowered wages at these offices. However, he cautioned this may not be true for foreign-educated H-1B holders in the U.S. employed at outsourcing firms.

Both Republicans and Democrats have maintained the need to reform the H-1B visa regime

According to data from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Amazon.com is the most prominent employer of H-1B employees, followed by the India-based Tata Consultancy Services, Microsoft, Meta and Apple. India was the top beneficiary of the H-1B programme in 2024, accounting for 71% of approved beneficiaries. The U.S. approved more than 2.8 lakh Indian H-1B workers, across varied sectors, at the end of 2024, according to data from the USCIS. The agency had given approval to approximately 4 lakh applicants during the period; of these, it approved only about 1.4 lakh applicants for initial employment. If the USCIS receives more registrations than the visas provisioned for the year, it runs a lottery to determine eligibility. Pro-immigration advocacy group American Immigration Council observes that the presence of skilled legal immigrants ensures that businesses expand their operations in the U.S. itself than searching for avenues overseas. Further, it also notes that immigrants are known to create new businesses and helping expand the labour market. Prominent examples being Elon Musk (South African and Canadian descent) and Sergey Brin (Russian migrant who founded Google with Larry Page). Additionally, H-1B holders are not just contributors to the more business-centric sectors but also civic essentials like medicine and health, as well as educational and scientific research. In a letter to the Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, post the directive, the American Medical Association (AMA) emphasised the "growing need for [a] larger physician workforce that the U.S. cannot fill on its own".

New rules: U.S. President Donald Trump signs order introducing a $1,00,000 fee for H-1B visas at the White House on September 19. GETTY IMAGES

Why is immigration a 'problem' in the U.S.?

In his order, President Trump quoted a 2017 study that stated that wages for native U.S. computer scientists would have been 2.6%-5.1% higher with employment being approximately 6.1%-10.8% higher (in 2001) in the absence of an immigration regime. It is interesting to note that the same study, authored by professors from the University of Michigan and University of Chicago, stated immigration helped lower prices and raised the output of IT goods by 1.9%-2.5%, benefitting consumers.

The story is, however, not that simple. Earlier this year, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) was learnt to be investigating Mumbai-headquartered TCS for discrimination in favour of H-1B workers. *Bloomberg* reported last December that at least 33 former employees had filed complaints at the EEOC alleging they were fired in favour of hiring Indian workers. TCS dismissed the allegations as "meritless and misleading". In fact, the U.S.-headquartered IT solutions provider Cognizant too found itself mired in similar allegations (in 2017). The company was also accused of firing non-South Asians at "disproportionally high rates". It did not receive a favourable verdict and sought to challenge it at an "appropriate time".

Reforming the H-1B programme to curb alleged misuse has traditionally had bipartisan support from both Democrats and Republicans. Democrats, including senator Bernie Sanders, have maintained the need to reform the regime to address "low-wage indentured servants from abroad". "The cheaper the labour they hire, the more money the billionaires make," he had said.

What lies ahead?

Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), in *The Hindu*'s 'Parley' podcast earlier this week, pointed out that the hike in visa fee makes it almost impossible for anyone to be hired, except top STEM graduates. "No U.S. company is going to take a risk given the vitiated political environment," he observed. But Mr. Srivastava also pointed at a "little-known" clause in the directive, which allows for a waiver if the applicant serves in a project of "national importance". Immigration lawyers say lawsuits to challenge the directive is inevitable. In a Facebook post, U.S.-based Immigration lawyer Karin Wolman said the proclamation was "drafted badly" and obfuscated processes. She argues that while the President has the power to execute a travel/entry ban, any collection of fees would have to be formally established as being "reasonably related to agency costs". Further, they can only be put out with a formal notice supported by a consultation over a period before being instituted.

Mr. Trump's directive comes against a larger backdrop of tariff-related tensions between the U.S. and India. Industry body Nasscom holds that with the revised fee effective with the next round of lottery expected in March, companies in the U.S. would have time to step up skilling programmes and enhance local hiring, which has already increased "tremendously".

How Israel used Azure to monitor Palestinians

What did Microsoft do after an investigation revealed that Israel's spy unit was using its surveillance software to gather information from Gaza and the West Bank? When did Unit 8200 begin the collaboration with Microsoft engineers? Aren't Palestinian networks independent?

John Xavier

The story so far:

In August, a joint investigation by *The Guardian*, *+972 Magazine* and *Local Call* revealed that Israel's military intelligence unit had built a cloud-based surveillance system using Microsoft's Azure to store audio recordings of Palestinians' phone calls. Unit 8200, which is considered Israel's equivalent to the U.S.'s National Security Agency, was reportedly uploading "audio files of millions of calls by Palestinians in the occupied territories" into a dedicated Azure environment.

What was Microsoft's initial response?

Microsoft's initial response downplayed any wrongdoing. The company said it had "found no evidence" that its tools were used to harm civilians and claimed to be unaware of how the cloud project was being used. But following the expose, the software giant launched an internal review. And on September 25, the company announced that its review had "found evidence that supports elements" of the reporting and that it had "ceased and disabled a set of services" to the Israeli defence unit involved.

How did this partnership begin?

The project was hatched in late 2021 when Unit 8200's commander, Yossi Sariel, met with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella in Seattle. Mr. Sariel pitched to move a huge portion of Israel's collected intelligence data onto Azure. Mr. Nadella reportedly agreed to a proof-of-concept plan and assigned a dedicated team of Microsoft engineers to work closely with Unit 8200 to build a secure, custom Azure deployment accessible from military bases. In Microsoft's internal view, this partnership was treated as "critical" to the company and even a "powerful brand moment" for Azure.

Israel will most likely shift workloads to Google or a combination of on-premises servers

The military's reason was simple: the existing Israeli data centres could not hold vast volumes of intercepted phone traffic. Under Mr. Sariel's tenure, Unit 8200 had dramatically expanded its surveillance and integrated multiple databases of Palestinians. Previously, the unit could keep the calls of only some tens of thousands of individuals on its own servers. By moving to Azure, it suddenly had "infinite" storage. In effect, once the cloud project was approved, Unit 8200 could funnel nearly all phone intercepts into Azure and scale its watchlist from thousands of calls per day to millions.

Spy in the cloud: Pro-Palestinian demonstrators protest outside the Microsoft Build conference in Seattle, Washington on May 19. AFP

How did the surveillance work?

The mechanics of the system hinged on cloud computing. Essentially, Unit 8200's field listening posts and telecom intercepts were piped into a dedicated Azure "instance". Microsoft and IDF engineers built a segregated Azure environment so that data from Gaza and the West Bank could be uploaded continuously and stored long-term. Because Azure offers elastic capacity and advanced AI tools, the unit could automate analysis on this content.

According to published reports, all intercepted voice calls and texts were transcribed and translated in the cloud. Advanced search indexes were then used to analyse the data to quickly decipher patterns. In short, Azure acted as both an enormous archive and an AI-driven search engine. *The Guardian*'s investigation emphasised that the IDF's calls database was kept in "a customised and segregated area within the Azure platform," allowing it to be "analysed using AI-driven techniques". This kind of setup is enabled by modern cloud features that are powered by multi-modal AI that can turn any data into searchable text. Once a phone call is converted by speech-to-text, it is treated like any document. In practice, such tools would allow an intelligence officer to input a query and quickly retrieve relevant conversation snippets or even link them to satellite imagery.

Where did phone usage data come from?

Crucially, none of this would have worked if Palestinian networks were independent. While, under the 1995 Oslo accords, Israel recognised Palestinians' right to build and operate their own communications systems, including mobile networks, in practice, Israel retained control over almost all telecommunications infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank. That means virtually every Palestinian cellphone call and data packet passes through Israeli-controlled switches.

As *The Guardian*'s report notes, "thanks to the control [Israel] exerts over Palestinian telecommunications infrastructure, Israel has long intercepted phone calls in the occupied territories". Without an independent mobile backbone, Palestinians must use cellular services that are extensions of Israeli operators, so mass monitoring of local networks has long been routine. Multiple analyses stress that Israel's continued monopoly or de facto control of Palestinian internet and phone lines violates the spirit of Oslo's "separate infrastructure" provisions. Israeli bureaucrats often justify such surveillance on security grounds, but rights advocates warn that it amounts to mass spying.

Will the surveillance stop?

Microsoft's Azure was not the only cloud in use. Earlier investigations revealed that the Israeli military also tapped Amazon Web Services (AWS) for some of its data storage. Moreover, the IDF has a broader cloud strategy: it signed a $1.2 billion deal, nicknamed "Project Nimbus", under which both Google Cloud and Amazon provide computing and AI services to the military. Even IBM subsidiary Red Hat has supplied cloud infrastructure, and Palantir, a U.S. defence tech firm, offers AI targeting tools to Israel. In short, besides Microsoft, almost all major U.S. tech firms have become entwined with Israel's digital war effort. What this means is that cutting off Azure does not leave Unit 8200 defenceless; it will simply shift workloads to Google or a combination of on-premises servers.

The legend next door

Mohanlal

The veteran actor, who won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award, redefined stardom in the Malayalam film industry and steered a new path in cinema by combining commercial elements with unique story-telling perspectives

G. Krishnakumar

In his speech after receiving the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award from President Draupadi Murmu in New Delhi on September 23, actor Mohanlal stated that he never "dared to dream" that one day he would win the country's highest cinematic honour. But his artistic journey of close to five decades with over 400 films and five National Film Awards has been nothing short of a dream. At the age of 65 and still going strong, he remains arguably one of the most influential actors of Malayalam cinema. A cultural idol, he has inspired a generation of writers and filmmakers to craft stories around him.

Born in Elanthoor, Pathanamthitta district, Kerala on May 21, 1960, to Viswanathan Nair, a former bureaucrat, and Santhakumari, he nurtured a passion for acting from his school days. In his sixth-grade at the Government Model Boys Higher Secondary School, Thiruvananthapuram, he played the character of a 90-year-old in the play *Computer Boy* and won the best actor award.

Mohanlal made his film debut in 1978 at the age of 18 as a mentally challenged servant in *Thiranottam* while pursuing his undergraduate programme at Mahatma Gandhi College in Thiruvananthapuram. An experiment by a group of his close friends and avid movie buffs that included its director Ashok Kumar, the film never had a full theatrical release after it was hit by censorship issues.

The turning point in his career came in 1980 when debutant director Fazil was searching for a new face to play the menacing villain in his movie *Manjil Virinja Pookkal*. With his overgrown, curly hair and a distinctive slanted shoulder, he brought a fresh perspective to the role of Narendran. Though the movie featured the debut of actors Shankar and Poornima Jayaram in lead roles, the antagonist emerged as the talk of the town.

There was no looking back since then as he catapulted into the big league. He went on to redefine stardom in the Malayalam film industry and dominated the landscape alongside Mammootty in the first two decades of his career.

He aligned with filmmakers who steered a new path in Malayalam cinema by combining commercial elements with unique story-telling perspectives.

At the age of 26 in 1986, Mohanlal won his maiden Kerala State Film Award for Best Actor for his outstanding portrayal of a struggling common man in filmmaker Sathyan Anthikad's comedy drama *T.P. Balagopalan M.A.* Together, they made popular movies such as *Sanmanassullavarkku Samadhanam*, *Gandhinagar 2nd Street* (1986), *Nadodikattu* (1987), and *Varavelpu* (1989) that helped him seal a position as a man-next-door.

Rise of a star

The year 1986 was special as he rode into super-stardom after playing the role of an underworld don with characteristic ease in the box-office hit *Rajavinte Makan* directed by Thampi Kannanthanam. The high point in his career came in 1989 after he won the Special Mention at the National Film Award for "portraying a young man's agony and pain marvellously and in unique style" as Sethumadhavan in filmmaker Sibi Malayil's cult-classic *Kireedam*. In 1991, he elevated his mastery over the craft by coming out with a subtle, but captivating portrayal of a classical singer in *Bharatham* by Sibi Malayil for which he won his maiden National Film Award for Best Actor.

Despite having no formal training in Kathakali, Mohanlal's character Kunjikuttan in acclaimed filmmaker Shaji N. Karun's *Vanaprastham*, which mapped the identity struggle of an artiste, earned him his second National Film Award for Best Actor in 1999. The actor had often recalled in his interviews that Kathakali maestros, including Kalamandalam Gopi, who acted in the movie, helped him imbibe the nuances of the traditional art form.

Filmmakers have often termed his acting style "natural, spontaneous and intense". "His process is much of an internalisation of the character's

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

emotional territory. Be it the trembling of his hands as he dips his face into the belongings of his brother, who is presumed dead in *Bharatham* or the climax scene of *Dasaratham*, both close-up shots, he brings in a magic that cannot be replicated by anyone. He never carries the weight of his characters on his shoulders," says Sibi Malayil, who gave him another stellar role as Sathyanathan, a convict on death row in *Sadayam*, penned by the legendary author M.T. Vasudevan Nair in 1992. His impeccable comic timing encouraged Priyadarshan, his friend from his early career days, to bring laughter on the big screen as seen in movies such as *Boeing Boeing* (1985), *Vellanakalude Naadu* (1988), *Kilukkam* (1991), and *Thenmavin Kombath* (1994), to name a few. He crossed the borders to try his luck in other industries, though it was short-lived. He played the character of Anandan with aplomb in Mani Ratnam's political drama *Iruvar* in 1997. In 2002, he joined hands with Ram Gopal Varma in the Hindi movie *Company*.

Though he was criticised for the poor selection of some scripts and repeated portrayal of larger-than-life roles after 2000, he bounced back to satisfy both the critics and his fans alike. *Pulimurugan* (2016) by Vysakh, and the *Drishyam* and *Lucifer* franchises, directed by Jeethu Joseph and Prithviraj Sukumaran, respectively, made it big in the box-office.

Success stories

The year 2025 seems to augur well for Mohanlal with the back-to-back successes of Tharun Moorthy's *Thudarum* and *Hridayapoorvam* by Sathyan Anthikad. He ventured into producing movies much early in his career and tasted both success and failure in equal measure. Some of his productions included *His Highness Abdullah*, *Bharatham*, and *Mithunam*, among others. His love for the stage saw him acting in two Sanskrit plays, *Karnabharam* and *Chayamukhi*. He burnt his fingers after his directorial debut *Barroz*, a 3D fantasy drama, tanked.

Mohanlal courted controversies that included the legal wrangles pertaining to the alleged illegal possession of ivory artefacts and the dissolution of the executive committee of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) led by him on August 27, 2024 following the release of the K. Hema Committee report on the problems faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. He expressed regret for "some of the political and social themes" in his *L2: Empuraan*, the second part of the *Lucifer* franchise, following right-wing backlash.

Mohanlal's rich repository of work has earned him several accolades. In 2009, he was given the honorary title of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Territorial Army. He was given the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2019 by the Union government. He holds the distinction of being the second film personality from Kerala, after filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan, to be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke award. An interesting mix of new projects awaits Mohanlal as he basks in the glory of the coveted recognition.

THE GIST

- The year 1986 was special as Mohanlal rode into super-stardom after playing the role of an underworld don with characteristic ease in the box-office hit *Rajavinte Makan*
- The high point in his career came in 1989 after he won the Special Mention at the National Film Award for "portraying a young man's agony and pain marvellously and in unique style" as Sethumadhavan in *Kireedam*
- In 1991, he elevated his mastery over the craft by coming out with a subtle, but captivating portrayal of a classical singer in *Bharatham* for which he won his maiden National Film Award for Best Actor

Virtual minister

Diella

Albania's decision to introduce the world's first AI Minister, aimed at reducing corruption, has sparked both political and ethical criticisms

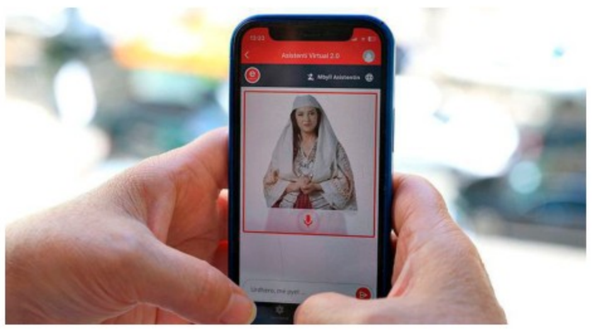
Adithya Narayan

To start off as an assistant and end up as a Minister in the span of nine months is nothing short of a meteoric rise; if only AI could be held to the same standards as humans. For, Albania unveiled earlier this month, Diella, the world's first AI Minister, that would take care of its public procurement process after having served as a virtual assistant on the government website since January.

The Balkan country, which nurses hopes of joining the EU, has been riddled with corruption. Apart from accusations of being a haven for money laundering and trafficking of drugs and guns by gangs, the government's tender processes are allegedly plagued by graft – hindrances on the nation's path towards the EU.

To circumvent these hurdles, Prime Minister Edi Rama launched Diella on September 11. Having come to power for a fourth consecutive term, Mr. Rama says Diella, which translates to 'sun' in Albanian, will ensure that public tenders are "100% free of corruption". Embodying a woman's persona and dressed in traditional Albanian attire, Diella will be "the first Cabinet member who isn't physically present, but is virtually created by AI",

AFP



Mr. Rama said.

That puts Diella at odds with the country's Constitution, which mandates that a Minister must be a "mentally competent citizen" above 18 years of age. With Humphrey in the U.K. and Albert in France, digital assistants aiding in bureaucratic work is not new, but vesting decision-making powers in an AI system is unprecedented.

Diella, in its earlier avatar as a virtual assistant, boasts of offering more than 1,000 services and issuing 36,600 digital documents to citizens. As it steps into the Minister's shoes, the bot possesses the credentials of a novice. That it is based on Large Language Models (LLMs, that power the popular ChatGPT and Gemini), and is developed in association with Microsoft does little to allay concerns, for Mr. Rama's administration remains tight-lipped about human oversight regarding the Virtual Minister.

Criticisms against the initiative have been twofold – political and ethical. Opposition Democrats have termed it yet another eyewash reform of Mr. Rama. Be it attending international meetings in sneakers, welcoming Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on one knee at an EU meet in capital Tirana, or the ban on TikTok in the country, the 61-year-old Socialist leader has a penchant for hitting the headlines.

Man vs machine

Ethical detractors say merely supplanting humans with a machine is not the solution for corruption. An AI system is only as good as the data it is fed, and the human involvement while inputting this data, based on which Diella makes decisions, is enough to sway the system. Unlike humans, a machine can neither be held responsible nor be expected to take ownership of its decisions in times of crisis. Also, the whole process eliminates any room for deliberations prior to making decisions – a characteristic crucial to a democracy.

Speaking on its behalf, Diella had said at the launch, "The Constitution speaks of institutions at the people's service. It doesn't speak of chromosomes, of flesh or blood. It speaks of duties, accountability, transparency, non-discriminatory service. I assure you that I embody such values as strictly as every human colleague, maybe even more." Countering the constitutional rule, it added: "True, I have no citizenship, but I have no personal ambition or interests either."

Mr. Rama, for his part, has been committed to AI for a while now. In 2024, Albania employed the technology to translate more than 2.5 lakh EU documents and laws. The country has deployed drones and satellites that use AI to monitor its territory. Mr. Rama has availed the services of Mira Murati, the former CTO of OpenAI that created ChatGPT and a native of Albania, to expedite the country's EU membership plans.

Regardless, Diella has sparked debates on the role of AI in governance and setting institutional limits to it. As sceptics claim that deploying AI into a broken system is hardly the remedy, for it will only serve to automate the existing problems, only time will tell the end result.

Spectacle of blame

Acetaminophen

Scientists and obstetric groups have objected Trump administration's claims that the drug 'causes' autism when used during pregnancy

Vasudevan Mukunth

Every political story needs a villain and a vehicle. In the latest 'Make America Healthy Again' edition, the vehicle is maternal behaviour: what pregnant mothers take, what they eat, what they fail to suspect. In a previous era, they were blamed for overlooking vaccines; now they are being blamed for taking acetaminophen, aka paracetamol, during their pregnancy. But between the vaccine and paracetamol narratives, the strategy has been to reframe autism as a preventable harm caused by bad choices, and to marginalise social determinants and advances in genetics and leave mothers to carry the blame.

Acetaminophen has, of course, been made the villain. For a century now, this drug has been kept near bassinets and on bedside tables, and has been trusted to deal with fever and ordinary pain when stronger versions of other drugs would have been reckless. Pharmacology texts say it blunts prostaglandin signalling in the central nervous system and nudges receptors that modulate pain. While this picture remains incomplete and the subject of ongoing research, acetaminophen has been reliable in its effects against pain and temperature. Both researchers and regulators have said for many years that in excess, acetaminophen can also maim the liver.

AFP

In the new script, fronted by U.S. President Donald Trump and his health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., acetaminophen has been dragged from outside the culture wars to a podium and asked to confess to something that can't possibly be proven: that it "causes" autism when used during pregnancy. Scientists and obstetric groups have already objected to this accusation. The World Health Organization has publicly repudiated it.

Some observational studies, but especially an analysis published in *JAMA Psychiatry* in 2019, reported that higher in-utero levels were statistically associated with later diagnoses such as autism. A consensus statement in *Nature Reviews Endocrinology* in 2021 urged a "precautionary" approach to the drug.

However, these and some other papers set out associations, not proof of causation, and admitted to being vulnerable to confounding by the very illnesses acetaminophen treats (including fevers), by genetics, and by family environment.

Rhetorical effect

However, the Trump-RFK combine has mutated "might be associated under certain conditions" into "is a primary cause". The rhetorical effect has been to pin responsibility not on access to care and diagnostics and environmental exposure but on imputed maternal failings. But just as vaccines don't cause autism – epidemiology and reviews have repeatedly proved this – professional bodies have maintained that acetaminophen is appropriate during pregnancy when medically indicated and at the lowest effective dose.

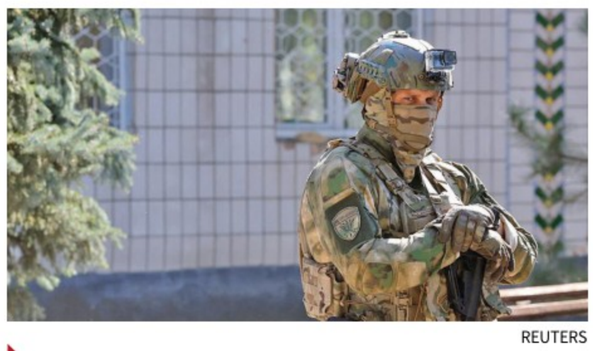
Indeed, in 2024, a large Swedish population study reported that the small increases in risk observed in simpler studies disappeared when matched siblings were analysed. Its findings were a powerful rebuttal to lazy causal claims. Courts have also had their say: one federal judge excluded plaintiffs' experts in a multidistrict litigation and dismissed hundreds of cases, finding their methods unreliable. Only political theatre is breathing new life back into these claims.

Acetaminophen also has its own baggage and it would be dishonest to omit it. It's the leading cause of acute liver failure in the U.S. Everyone who prescribes it is expected to be aware of the dosage ceiling as well as be mindful of the fact that certain combinations with other drugs can render it poisonous.

Ultimately, acetaminophen is a tool – and a sobering one at that. It returns the drug to the clinic, where decisions are individualised and the risks are explicit. It returns autism to being a spectrum of neurodevelopmental differences with a complicated matrix of causes, rather than a punishment for taking a pill during a difficult pregnancy. And ultimately, it returns public health to its first principles: that one shouldn't claim causal links sans evidence, shouldn't trade in fear where counsel is required, and shouldn't allow the spectacle of blame to substitute for the work of care.

MOSCOW

Russia claims to have seized three villages in eastern Ukraine



REUTERS

Russia on Saturday claimed to have captured three villages in east Ukraine, as its forces slowly grind through Ukrainian defences in costly battles. The villages of Derylove and Maiske were seized in the Donetsk region, Moscow's Army said in a statement, while the settlement of Stepove was taken in the Dnipropetrovsk region. AFP

KATHMANDU

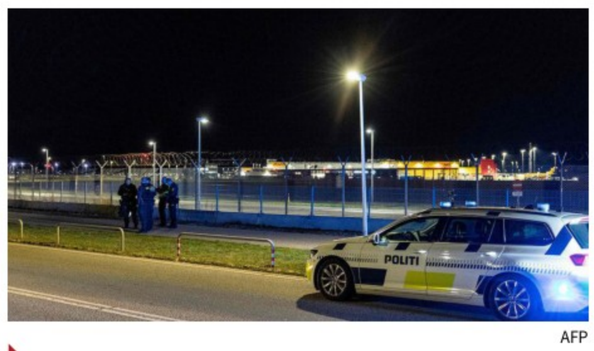
Oli denies giving shooting order during 'Gen Z' protest in Nepal

AFP

Nepal's deposed Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Saturday denied giving shooting orders during the 'Gen Z' protests, as he spoke publicly for the first time since his ouster earlier this month. The CPN (UM-L) chairman was addressing cadres of his party at his private residence in the Gundu area of Bhaktapur district. PTI

COPENHAGEN

New drone sightings over military locations in Denmark and Norway



AFP

Unidentified drones flew over Danish military sites following a slew of earlier sightings that Copenhagen has termed a "hybrid attack", hinting at Russian involvement. Neighbouring Norway was also investigating "possible sightings of drones" on Saturday near its biggest military base, Orland, where its F-35 jets are parked. AFP

DEIR AL-BALAH

At least 44 killed across Gaza Strip as Israel ignores call for ceasefire

AP

Israeli strikes killed at least 44 people across Gaza on Saturday, as international pressure grows for a ceasefire but Israel's leader remains defiant about continuing the war. The attacks came hours after a defiant Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the UN that his nation "must finish the job" against Hamas. AP

India, Brazil, South Africa strongly condemn Israeli attacks against Gaza

IBSA Ministers also condemn 'the gruesome killing' of civilians in Pahalgam in April and reject terrorism in all forms; they call for finalising a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the framework of UN General Assembly

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

Dire straits: Smoke rises during an Israeli military operation in Gaza City, as seen from the central Gaza Strip on Saturday. REUTERS

Foreign Ministers of IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) strongly criticised Israel's attacks against Gaza on Friday, according to the joint statement of their meeting along the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. India was represented by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the meet.

The Ministers "strongly condemned the Israeli attacks against Gaza, which, after almost two years, continue to cause unprecedented suffering to the civilian population of the territory, ravaged by deaths, destruction, forced displacement, and famine", the document said.

The Ministers affirmed that the Gaza Strip was part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and stressed the need to unify the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Palestinian Authority. They called for a full ceasefire, the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territory, the unhindered delivery of aid to Gaza and the release of the remaining hostages (who were captured by military group Hamas in October 2023, setting off the current phase of the conflict).

The group criticised violations of international human rights law – noting that using starvation as a method of warfare was also a violation.

IBSA Ministers also condemned "the gruesome killing" of civilians in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, in April and rejected terrorism in all forms. They called for finalising a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the framework of the UN General Assembly. India has advocated for concluding such a convention since it introduced the discussion at the UN in 1996.

Ukraine situation

On Ukraine, the IBSA joint statement called for called for de-escalation by all parties, as it noted that countries in the Global South may have relevant perspectives to offer.

BRICS nations criticise protectionism, condemn Israeli strikes against Qatar

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

Flash point: A damaged building, following an Israeli attack on Hamas leaders, in Doha, Qatar, earlier this month. REUTERS

The BRICS group of countries, a club of 11 emerging markets, called out protectionism and tariff volatility at a Foreign Ministers meeting on the fringes of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly. The statement comes as countries are navigating the upheaval to global trade following U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff polices this year – which have seen both higher tariffs and repeated changes to rates.

The BRICS meeting, which was hosted by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, condemned Israel's attack earlier this month on Qatar as well as expressed "grave concerns" for Palestine after "persistent" Israeli attacks. It also condemned the April terror attacks in Pahalgam.

"As rising protectionism, tariff volatility and non-tariff barriers impact trade flows, BRICS must defend the multilateral trading system," Mr. Jaishankar said on social media site X on Friday.

The BRICS group has been on the radar of Mr. Trump, who views it as anti-American and a threat to the U.S. dollar. Mr Trump has tariffed some of its other members at high rates such as China as well as Brazil, which currently faces 50% tariffs.

The BRICS statement notes "serious concerns about the rise of unilateral tariff and non-tariff measures which distort trade and are inconsistent with WTO rules". Countries warned that these could fragment global trade and marginalise the Global South. The statement does not name the U.S. or explicitly point to Mr. Trump's policies.

On Friday, BRICS countries also " rejected" climate-related unilateral tariffs such as Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs). This has been a concern in trade relationships for instance between India and the EU, which is among the jurisdictions rolling out such a tax. BRICS ministers condemned Israel's September 9 airstrike on Qatar, which, they said, was a "flagrant violation" of Qatar's sovereignty and "a grave breach of international law, including the UN Charter".

On Iran, the joint statement condemned attacks "since June 13, 2025", including on Iran's "civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities" that are under the safeguard of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Nuclear safety must always be upheld, the countries said. It does not mention Israel or the U.S. explicitly as having conducted the strikes on Iran.

On the Israel-Gaza conflict, the ministers said Israel's " persistent" attack on Gaza had caused " unprecedented suffering to the civilian population of the territory, ravaged by deaths, destruction, and famine".

The countries called for an immediate ceasefire in the region and they called on Israel to stop its attacks and to withdraw troops. They also condemned the displacement of the Palestinian people and reiterated their support for a two-state solution , recognising a Palestine state, which contains the Gaza Strip and West Bank, with its capital in East Jerusalem.

The statement called for the release of the remaining October 7 hostages . There was, however, no mention of Hamas , which is holding the hostages.

BRICS countries called for more equitable representation at the UN and reform of multilateral organisations, including the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the Bretton Woods institutions. Significantly, BRICS-member China, has not supported India's bid for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

UN sanctions loom as Iran rejects U.S. call to hand over uranium

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday slammed as "unacceptable" what he described as U.S. demands that Tehran hand over its enriched uranium, as sweeping UN sanctions loomed after nuclear talks collapsed.

Mr. Pezeshkian on Saturday told reporters in New York that Washington had asked Tehran to relinquish all of its enriched uranium in exchange for a three-month reprieve from sanctions.

U.S. asks Tehran to relinquish enriched uranium in exchange for a three-month reprieve from curbs

"This is by no means acceptable," he said.

He previously said France had made a similar proposal, offering only a one-month delay.

"Why would we put ourselves in such a trap and have a noose around our neck each month?" Mr. Pezeshkian asked, accusing the U.S. of pressuring Europeans not to compromise.

U.S. to revoke Colombian President Petro's visa

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. State Department said it would revoke the visa of Colombia's leftist President Gustavo Petro, who returned to Bogota on Saturday after being accused of "incendiary actions" during a pro-Palestinian street protest in New York.

Mr. Petro was in New York for the UN General Assembly, where he fiercely rebuked U.S. President Donald Trump's administration and called for a criminal inquiry into recent U.S. strikes on alleged drug trafficking boats in the Caribbean in his Tuesday address.

Gustavo Petro

The Colombian leader shared video on social media of himself speaking through megaphone to a large crowd on Friday, calling on "nations of the world" to contribute soldiers for an army "larger than that of the U.S."

"That is why, from here in New York, I ask all soldiers in the U.S. Army not to point their rifles at humanity. Disobey Trump's order! Obey the order of humanity!" Mr. Petro said.

The U.S. State Department said on social media that Mr. Petro had "stood on a New York Central street and urged U.S. soldiers to disobey orders and incite violence."

"We will revoke Petro's visa due to his reckless and incendiary actions," it said.

Mr. Petro struck a defiant note after leaving New York for Bogota, saying that he considered himself a "free person in the world."

Sport

Sheetal, Toman provide golden sheen as India wins five medals

PARA ARCHERY

Press Trust of India
GWANGJU

Sheetal and Toman Kumar... triumphant. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 18-year-old Indian Sheetal Devi scripted history by becoming the first woman armless archer to win the World championship gold in the compound individual section, and Toman Kumar replicated the title run in the corresponding men's event as India claimed five medals at the Para World Archery Championships on Saturday.

Sheetal defeated Turkiye's World No. 1 Oznur Cure Girdi 146-143 to claim gold. She had earlier won a mixed team bronze in the compound event with Toman Kumar, defeating Great Britain's Jodie Grinham and Nathan MacQueen 152-149.

In the compound women's open team event, Sheetal and Sarita settled for silver after losing 148-152 to Turkiye's Girdi and Bursa Fatma Un in the final.

Later, Toman claimed the compound men's title after fellow Indian Rakesh Kumar was forced to withdraw following a technical glitch as he lost 40-20.

There was a slight disappointment for India in the compound men's open section as Shyam Sunder Swami lost 141-148 to Nathan MacQueen of Great Britain in the bronze medal play-off as India missed a chance to make a clean sweep.

Europe has three-point lead over United States

RYDER CUP

Agence France-Presse
FARMINGDALE

Jon Rahm and Tommy Fleetwood struck twice as Europe stormed into a three-point lead on the opening day of the Ryder Cup on Friday, overwhelming the United States.

Europe dominated the morning with three foursomes victories for a 3-1 cushion, then added 2.5 more points in the afternoon four-balls to tighten its grip on Bethpage Black, finishing the day with a 5.5-2.5 advantage. "Incredible day," Europe captain Luke Donald said.

Bhairabi wins triple jump amid chaos

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
RANCHI

Sweet success: Bhairabi clinched the triple jump gold with an effort of 13.10m. Y.B. SARANGI

Bhairabi Roy overcame a venue-related confusion to claim the women's triple jump title while National record holder pole vaulter Dev Meena finished a disappointing third on the rain-battered opening day of the National Open athletics championships at the Birsa Munda Stadium, Morabadi, here on Saturday.

Following her personal best of 13.39 in the inter-Railway meet three weeks ago, the 30-year-old Bhairabi, who shifted her training base from Kolkata to Mumbai two months back after struggling with a hamstring injury last year, returned 13.10m on her fifth attempt and beat Poorva Sawant by five centimetres.

"I could have done better. I reached another venue bearing the same name, travelled nine kilometre amid heavy traffic and barely managed to report for the competition. I could not warm up and the track also became slow due to rain," said Bhairabi, who is expecting another medal in long jump.

In the men's pole vault, the athletes struggled as they could not see the box and bar properly due to poor lighting. Rain also posed problems as the competition was stopped midway.

The top-four finishers cleared 5.10m after several failed attempts.

M. Gowtham took the gold, followed by Rambeer, Meena and former National record holder Siva S. World University Games silver medallist Seema beat 18-year-old Sanjana Singh in the final lap to take the women's 5,000m gold with 16:01.27s. Nevertheless, it was a satisfying performance for Sanjana, who achieved her personal best of 16:03.23.

Manikanta Hoblidhar equalled his 2023 meet record time, 10.23s, in the 100m semifinals and emerged as the fastest among the men so far.

The results: Finals (winners only): Men: 5000m: Prince Kumar (AIP) 14:06.57s; **Pole vault:** M. Gowtham 5.10m. **Women: 5000m:** Seema (HP) 16:01.27s; **Triple jump:** Bhairabi Roy (Rlys) 13.10m; **Discus:** Seema (Har) 55.26m.

NO DEARTH OF SUPPORT

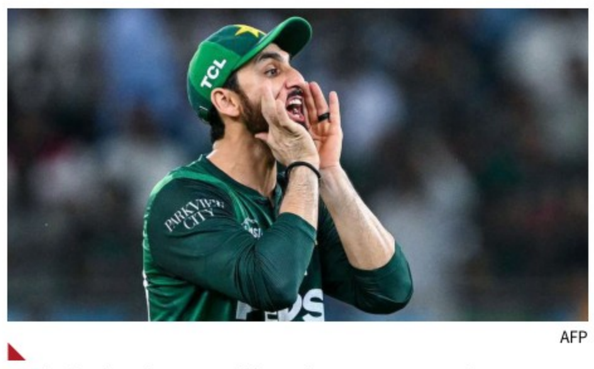
Full house expected for maiden India-Pakistan final in Asia Cup

AFP

A full house is expected for the Asia Cup final on Sunday. The Dubai International Cricket Stadium, which has been hosting international cricket since 2009, has a capacity of 25,000 people. While the group-stage clash between the arch-rivals was attended by 20,000, the turnout for the Super Four face-off was 18,000.

NO GETTING AWAY

Both teams will have the same amount of pressure, reckons Agha



AFP

It's the final. Both teams will have the same amount of pressure. The pressure of a final is different. We have committed more mistakes than India in the two earlier matches. That is why we have not won. On Sunday, we hope to commit fewer mistakes. The team that makes lesser errors will win — Pakistan captain Salman Agha.

STRONG WORDS

What is the fielding coach doing? Mishra slams India's poor catching

AFP

In T20Is, dropping one catch can prove costly, and the Indian team is dropping three to four catches. There should be no margin for error in the final against Pakistan. You should practice. What is the fielding coach doing? He should make them practice taking catches under lights — Former India leg-spinner Amit Mishra.

ADDING SPICE

ACC chairman Naqvi to present trophy to the champion team

ACC

Asian Cricket Council chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is also the chief of the PCB and Pakistan's Interior Minister, is set to present the Asia Cup trophy to the winning team on Sunday. It remains to be seen how Suryakumar Yadav and Co. respond to Naqvi's presence at the post-match ceremony in case they win their ninth title.

Dominant India meets mercurial Pakistan in final

Abhishek once again holds the aces given his sublime form coming into the summit clash; Agha's men will not just have to play out of their skin but also hope for the holder to be off-colour

ASIA CUP

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

Face-off: It will be a test of rival captains Suryakumar and Agha's tactics and temperament. AFP

Customary handshakes have been refused. Complaints against a match referee have been lodged and rejected. Provocative gestures have caused an uproar. Post-match remarks have been construed as political rhetoric. Disciplinary hearings have been held. Press conferences have been cancelled. A match has been delayed.

In light of the strained diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan, aggravated by the cross-border conflict in May in the wake of a terror attack in Pahalgam, the 17th edition of the Asia Cup has witnessed one flashpoint after another. Now with a title on the line, the neighbours will meet for the third time in this year's continental showpiece at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

The theatrics over the past three weeks have ensured that the excitement around Sunday's final, remarkably the first instance of the two-arch rivals meeting in the summit clash in the tournament's four-decade history, is just about intact. Never mind that the previous two face-offs in this event led to one-sided wins for India.

As the head-to-head record testifies, India has marched ahead in the past two decades. In 15 T20Is between these teams since the first in 2007, the current T20 World Cup champion has won 12. It has also emerged victorious in each of their last seven white-ball meetings. Pakistan, on the other hand, would prefer to emphasise on a 8-4 record in finals of white-ball tournaments.

Contrasting records

Recent dominance manifested in Suryakumar Yadav's assertion after India's six-wicket win in the Super Four stage that this was no longer a rivalry. "According to me, if two teams play 15-20 matches and if [head-to-head] it is 7-7 or 8-7, then that is called a rivalry. But 13-0, 10-1... I don't know what the stats are. But this is not a rivalry anymore," Suryakumar declared.

For Pakistan to prove otherwise, Salman Agha's men will not just have to play out of their skin but also hope for India to be off-colour. Pakistan coach Mike Hesson did take heart from his team being competitive in the Super Four defeat to India last weekend.

Today's match

THE FINAL

India 12 | Pakistan 3

Dubai, 8 p.m. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is

Played: 15

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS TEN 5 (SD & HD) & LIV

But ultimately, even a target of 172 was chased down comfortably with seven balls to spare. Abhishek Sharma was the architect with the bat on that occasion, and will again hold the aces given his sublime form.

There was a slight cause for concern in India's Super Over win against Sri Lanka on Friday when the opener clutched his thigh and walked off the field in the 10th over of the second innings. Hardik Pandya, too, spent a major chunk of the innings in the dressing room after feeling his hamstring during his opening over. India bowling coach Morne Morkel put it down to cramps.

"We'll assess Hardik and we'll make a call on that. Both of them struggled with cramps during the game. Abhishek is fine," Morkel said on Friday night.

On the eve of the final, cricketing logic emphatically points to another win for the Men in Blue. Can Pakistan, in keeping with its mercurial disposition, upset the odds?

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson (wk), Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh.

Pakistan: Salman Agha (Capt.), Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Mohammad Haris (wk), Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Faheem Ashraf, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Wasim, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Sufiyan Muqeem.

Abhishek vs Afridi — another engrossing duel in the offing

Who'll have the final say? Abhishek has had the better of Afridi in the two previous encounters. ANI

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

When India met Pakistan for the first time in this Asia Cup on September 14, Abhishek Sharma greeted Shaheen Shah Afridi's opening delivery with a charge down the track to convert what was intended to be a full, away-swinging delivery into a full toss. Belted down the ground. Four!

When they met again exactly a week later, Afridi pulled his length back first up to avoid a repeat. Abhishek, alert to the bowler's disposition, stayed back in his crease and pulled handsomely past fine leg. Six!

These may be just two deliveries in the battle of two supremely skilled 25-year-olds, but they encapsulate the one-sided nature of this match-up so far. With reputations counting for zilch in Abhishek's playbook, he has gone after the left-arm pacer with the same uninhibited aggression that has characterised his impressive international T20I career over the past year.

The numbers are instructive: over the two matches, Abhishek has plundered 31 runs in 14 balls off Afridi without being dismissed.

In both matches, Afridi was simply unable to regather his poise once Abhishek landed the first punch.

In the opening round, with Pakistan defending a modest total of 127 for nine, the pacer from Pakistan's northwest was looted for 23 runs in his first two overs.

Among Abhishek's scintillating strokes was a dismissive whip that sailed over midwicket for six. Skipper Salman Agha never went back to his spearhead for a second spell.

In the outing on September 21, Pakistan had a steeper total to play with. Afridi, though, endured another bleak evening, leaking 40 runs in nearly four wicketless overs.

Among the wickets

That Afridi has claimed nine wickets in the other four matches of this tournament reflects how well the Indian batters, and more specifically Abhishek, have handled Pakistan's new-ball weapon.

"Shaheen is an aggressive bowler who will try and knock you over. And Abhishek is not going to hold back," India bowling coach Morne Morkel said in anticipation of the match-up in Sunday's final.

"Every time these two are going head-to-head, we all, as cricket supporters and fans, are on the edge of our seats. Let's look forward to that on Sunday and enjoy the battle."

We're not the finished article: Morkel

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

Resolving problem areas: Bowling coach Morkel acknowledges that the team needs to step up in all departments of the game. PTI

India's perfect record in this year's Asia Cup was preserved by its dramatic victory in the Super Over against Sri Lanka in the final game of the Super Four phase on Friday.

It provided a few areas, however, for Suryakumar Yadav's men to ponder over in the tune-up to the defence of the T20 World Cup in February and March next year.

Ahead of the final against Pakistan on Sunday, India bowling coach Morne Morkel acknowledged that the team is yet to tick all boxes in this campaign.

"I don't think we've played the complete game in this tournament so far. After every match, there have been discussions on areas we would like to improve and get better at," said Morkel on Friday.

"In all departments, work needs to be done. We're by no means the finished article and we know that."

At the halfway stage of Friday's game, India's total of 202 for five seemed set to facilitate a convincing win. But in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah – he was rested for the inconsequential contest – the bowlers were challenged by Pathum Nissanka's onslaught.

"The more we can find ourselves in sticky situations and execute well and take the learning from that, that's how this group is going to grow," Morkel reflected.

"So, yes, sometimes it is frustrating from the side if we don't get it all together, but there's a bigger picture in mind."

With just a day's break before the final, Morkel underlined the importance of the bowlers receiving sufficient rest.

"The best way to recover is to sleep and stay off your feet. It is about getting massages and getting mentally ready for a big battle on Sunday. It's a quick turnaround. So, playing this smart is going to be key," he said.

Never seen two teams not exchange handshakes after a match: Agha

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

Making his stance clear: Agha said that he has no problem with aggression from any player as long as it's within the limits. ANI

On the eve of Sunday's Asia Cup final, Pakistan skipper Salman Agha weighed into the handshake row for the first time since it flared up after the group-stage meeting versus India on September 14.

After a seven-wicket win in a Group-A fixture, India's players and support staff had refused to exchange handshakes with the Pakistan contingent. There was no change in India's stance for the second meeting in the Super Four phase either.

"I started playing cricket professionally in 2007 at the under-16 level. I've never seen two teams not exchange handshakes after a match," the 31-year-old middle-order batter said at the pre-match press conference on Saturday.

'Not good for cricket'

"My father is also a cricket fan and he has also never told me about anything like this happening either. Matches between India and Pakistan have happened before as well. The situation has been tense before as well, but handshakes were part of the convention. Not shaking hands is not good for cricket."

In a tournament that has witnessed more off-field drama than engrossing on-field action, Pakistan's Haris Rauf and Sahibzada Farhan have triggered ire for their "provocative gestures" during the last meeting between the two teams. While Farhan celebrated his half-century with a machine-gun gesture, Rauf depicted the downing of an aircraft.

Asked whether it is incumbent on the captain to restrain his players during Sunday's final, Agha said: "Every player knows how to deal with his emotions. I give a free hand to players to react the way they want as long as they don't disrespect anyone. Within the limits, I have no problem with aggression from any player, whether it is from our team or our opponent."

INBRIEF

Arianna gets the better of Raiza to clinch skeet gold

Olympian Raiza Dhillon was slightly shaky at the business end of competition and Arianna Nember of Italy pounced on her chance by smashing the clay birds with remarkable assurance to clinch the skeet gold with a 53-51 victory in the Junior World Cup at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, New Delhi, on Saturday. India did win the gold and silver in mixed air pistol event, to bolster its collection at the top of the medals table to three gold, five silver and three bronze.

The results: Air pistol: Mixed team: 1. India (Rashmika Sahgal, Kapil) 16 (582); 2. India-2 (Vanshika Chaudhary, Jonathan Antony) 10 (578); 3. Spain 16 (Ines Castro, Lucas Sanchez) 16 (572); 4. Iran (Parimah Amiri, Mohammadreza Ahmadi) 14 (572).
Skeet: Junior men: 1. Marco Coco (Ita) 56 (122); 2. Lasi Kauppinen (Fin) 53 (121); 3. Andreas Pontikis (Cyp) 43 (121); 4. Harmehar Lally 35 (121); 5. Atul Rajawat 25 (121); 13. Jyotiraditya Sisodiya 116; 18. Yashvardhan Rajawat 113; 26. Ishaan Libra 109.
Junior women: 1. Arianna Nember (Ita) 53 (112); 2. Raiza Dhillon 51 (112); 3. Mansi Raghuwanshi 41 (117); 6. Agrima Kanwar 13 (111); 9. Yashasvi Rathore 107; 12. Shivani Raikwar 105.

Kamesh Srinivasan

Hockey: junior women lose to Australia again

The Indian junior women's hockey team slumped to its second straight defeat, going down 0-5 to hosts Australia U21 side in the second match of its ongoing tour in Canberra on Saturday. Makayla Jones (10, 11, 52) scored a hat-trick while Sami Love (38), Migaliya Howell (50) also found the net for the hosts.

West Ham sacks Potter, hires Nuno Santo

West Ham hired Nuno Espirito Santo as its new manager just hours after sacking Graham Potter on Saturday. Nuno, axed by Nottingham Forest earlier this season, agreed a three-year contract with the Premier League struggler and will take charge of his first game at Everton on Monday.

Bengaluru United slams three unanswered past Rebels

FC Bengaluru United blanked Rebels FC 3-0 in the Super Division League football, in Bengalur, on Saturday.

The results: FC Real Bengaluru 1 (Syed Ahmed 85) bt HAL FC 0; ASC & Centre FC 2 (Khaleel Ur Rahaman (OG) 36, Maitshaphang Neng Nong 53) bt Roots FC 0; FC Bengaluru United 3 (S. Rayan Wifred 40, Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar 50, Chabungbam Linky Meitei 75) bt Rebels FC 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Serie A: DAZN, 4, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7, 9 & 11 p.m.
Men's T20 Asia Cup (final): India vs Pakistan, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.

Incredible Australia remains the team to beat

The squad offers depth and variety in options and replacements; though the gulf between the champion side and others are narrowing, the team will bank on its match-winners to dominate

WC COUNTDOWN

Lavanya L

A star-studded Australian squad comes into this World Cup with a larger-than-life reputation and a competitive pool with piranhas snapping at its heels. While the Aussies are a few tiers above the rest of the nations in success and depth, that gap is fast narrowing. The side's incredible resources in both departments and a sparkling record as a fielding unit mean it enters the tournament as a firm favourite.

It's a familiar looking side, with 10 players carrying over from its 2022 World Cup-winning bunch - all proven match winners who can single-handedly change games. The likes of Alyssa Healy, Beth Mooney and the young Annabel Sutherland provide solidity to this batting spine, but the upside is in the young players slotted in between. Selectors will sweat over who to roll out between Phoebe Litchfield and Georgia Voll - both of whom have excelled against high-quality opponents like England and India. Ellyse Perry's ability to switch gears, especially in the middle overs, also bolsters this side.

Vital cog: Healy's experience would be crucial to the side's title defence. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Grace Harris found herself ruled out due to a calf strain days before the opener, but in Heather Graham, the side has a reliable replacement.

The cherry on top is the availability of at least eight competitive bowling options to counter the most aggressive of batting attacks, with more match-winners like Sophie Molineux waiting in the wings to be unleashed at the right time.

Australia was involved in a record-breaking 781-run aggregate ODI against India. While it underlined the side's strengths, it also exposed a certain slowness in adapting to situations when the going gets tough. The 2024 T20 World Cup showed how a sprightly opposition can poke holes in Australia's gold-coated canopy. The side will hope to guard against complacency as it bids for an incredible eighth ODI title.

Impact Player
In an ODI climate that's filled with thundering high-scorers, Alyssa Healy, the opener, is crucial to set the tone for Australia's batting essay. Her ability to score quickly and swing early momentum in Australia's favour needs to be on show regularly for the side to uphold its dominance in the format. Her recent trysts with injuries mean her workload management – given she keeps as well – will be a priority for the team

The squad: Alyssa Healy (Capt.), Tahlia McGrath (Vice-capt.), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Heather Graham, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.
Australia's fixtures: Oct. 1: New Zealand (Indore); **Oct. 4:** Sri Lanka (Colombo); **Oct. 8:** Pakistan (Colombo); **Oct. 12:** India (Visakhapatnam); **Oct. 16:** Bangladesh (Visakhapatnam); **Oct. 22:** England (Indore); **Oct. 25:** South Africa (Indore).

Record setter: Kane is ahead of Cristiano and Haaland as the fastest to 100 goals in the top five European leagues. AP

Palace ends Liverpool's perfect league start

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Liverpool's perfect Premier League start came to an end as Eddie Nketiah's 97th minute strike gave Crystal Palace a 2-1 win on Saturday.

Palace is now the only undefeated team left in the Premier League and moves up to second, three points behind defending champion Liverpool.

Julian Alvarez struck twice to earn Atletico Madrid an emphatic 5-2 derby victory over LaLiga leader Real Madrid on Saturday, ending its rival's perfect start to the season.

Diego Simeone's Atletico overran Real at the Metropolitano stadium to record a famous triumph and rise to fourth.

Harry Kane scored twice to reach 100 goals for Bayern Munich on Friday as the German champion continued its perfect start to the Bundesliga season with a 4-0 win over Werder Bremen. Playing his 104th game for Bayern, Kane becomes the fastest man to 100 goals with a club in Europe's top-five leagues, breaking the record of 105 matches jointly held by Cristiano Ronaldo and Erling Haaland.

The results: Premier League: Brentford 3 (Thiago 8, 20, Jensen 90+5) bt Manchester United 1 (Sesko 26); Chelsea 1 (Fernandez 24) lost to Brighton 3 (Welbeck 77, 90+10, De Cuyper 90+2); Crystal Palace 2 (Sarr 9, Nketiah 90+8) bt Liverpool 1 (Chiesa 87); Leeds 2 (Rodon 37, Longstaff 54) drew with Bournemouth 2 (Semenyo 26, Kroupi 90+3); Manchester City 5 (Esteve 12-og, 65-og, Nunes 61, Haaland 90, 90+3) bt Burnley 1 (Anthony 38).
LaLiga: Atletico 5 (Le Normand 14, Sorlotsh 45+3, Alvarez 51-pen, 63, Griezmann 90+3) bt Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 25, Guler 36).
Bundesliga: Mainz 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 2 (Svensson 27, Adeyemi 40); Wolfsburg 0 lost to RB Leipzig 1 (Bakayoko 8); St. Pauli 1 (Wahl 32) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Tapsoba 25, Poku 58).
On Friday:
Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 4 (Tah 22, Kane 45-pen, 65, K. Laimer 87) bt Werder Bremen 0.

India's Shailesh sets championship record

PARA ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

India began its medal dreams in earnest, winning a gold, silver and bronze each on the opening day of the World Para Athletics Championships here on Saturday, even as some of the biggest names in the world of para sports reiterated their domination. High jumper Shailesh Kumar improved on his silver from the 2023 edition to not just begin India's golden haul but also set a new championship record in the T42 category with a jump of 1.91m.

With the T42 and T63 categories competing together, Shailesh was up against the USA's rising star and Paris Paralympic champion Ezra Frech, who finished second (1.85m). Veteran Varun Singh Bhati, returning to the world stage for the first time in eight years, won bronze (1.85m) in an amazing story of grit and comeback.

The 25-year-old Shailesh, a former World Junior Para champion, had finished 4th in Paris but was unstoppable on the day, going for 1.94m, but was unable to do so. "That was the target we had been training for but I am happy with my performance. Next time," he promised.

In the final event of the day, defending champion Deepthi Jeevanji finished second in 55.16 seconds behind Aysel Onder of Turkiye, who improved on her own world record to clock 54.51 seconds in the 400m T20 category. India had won 17 medals, including six gold, in 2024.

Brazilian Petrucio Ferreira, meanwhile, continued his dominance on the track, winning the 100m T47 in 10.66s to extend his medal tally to an incredible five World titles. Ferreira, the fastest para athlete in the world, has been unbeaten since 2016.

Victory roar: Shailesh is gung-ho after his jump.
SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Among the women, China's world record holder Xiaoyan Wen also reaffirmed her numero uno status in the long jump T37 category, setting a new championships record with 5.32m to take gold.

The results (day one): Men: 100m T71: Artur Krzyzek (Pol, 21.19s); **100m T47:** Petrucio Ferreira (Bra, 10.66s); **5000m T11:** Kenya Karasawa with guides Shimizu and Horikoshi (Jpn, 15:23.38); **Long jump T11:** Di Dongdong (Chn, 6.92m); **Shot put F37:** Albert Khinchagov (NPA, 16.55m), Manu (9th, 13.43m); **High jump T63:** Shailesh Kumar (1.91m), Ezra Frech (USA, 1.85m), Varun Singh Bhati (1.85m).
Women: 100m T71: Thekra Alkaabi (UAE, 19.89); **400m T20:** Aysel Onder (Tur, 54.51s), Deepthi Jeevanji (55.16s); **Shot put F41:** Mayerli Buitrago Ariza (Col, 10.21m); **Shot put F36:** Cheyenne Bouthoorn (Ned, 9.62m); **Long jump T37:** Xiaoyan Wen (Chn, 5.32m); **Javelin throw F46:** Noelle Roorda (Ned, 43.74m), Bhavanaben Chaudhary (8th, 35.34m).

Anirudh wins Challenger title with Stalder

Sports Bureau

Anirudh Chandrasekar and Reese Stalder of USA beat Tsung-Hao Huang and Ulsung Park 6-2, 2-6, [10-7] in the doubles final of the $160,000 Challenger tennis in Jingshan, China, on Saturday. In the ITF women's event in Kayseri, Turkey, the 20-year-old Madhurima Sawant won her second doubles title in the professional circuit, with Saannah Broadus.

Other results: $30,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh: Semifinals: Robin Bertrand (Fra) bt S. Mukund 6-3, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF women, Kayseri, Turkey: Doubles: Final: Savannah Broadus (USA) & Madhurima Sawant bt Selina Atay (Tur) & Maria Bergen (Ukr) 7-6(2), 6-3.

KSCA Secretary's XI stays close thanks to Nikin Jose, Venkatesh

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

S.J. Nikin Jose (58 batting, 133b, 6x4) and M. Venkatesh (5/75) kept KSCA Secretary's XI in the hunt against Madhya Pradesh on day two of the Dr (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah Memorial tournament final at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

From an overnight 287 for six, MP could add only 51 runs as Venkatesh finished with a five-wicket haul.

Secretary's XI's innings was then held together by opener and skipper Nikin Jose's dogged batting as he remained unbeaten on 58 off 133 deliveries.

At stumps, the local side had reached 163 for four, 175 runs adrift.

Dogged batting: Nikin Jose played a skipper's innings, scoring an unbeaten fifty for KSCA Secretary's XI. K. MURALI KUMAR

The scores (final): Madhya Pradesh 338 in 101.2 overs (Himanshu Mantri 83, Shubham Sharma 66, Venkatesh Iyer 48, M. Venkatesh 5/75) vs. Karnataka State Cricket Association's Secretary's XI 163/4 in 58 overs (Nikin Jose 58 batting).

Blue Colts emerge champions

Making it a habit: India won its seventh SAFF under-17 crown. AIFF

SAFF UNDER-17

Sports Bureau

In a dramatic final, India held its nerve to beat Bangladesh 4-1 on penalties, securing its seventh SAFF under-17 Championship at the Racecourse International Stadium in Colombo on Saturday.

After the score remained 2-2 at the end of regulation time, Dallalmuon Gangte, Korou Meitei Konthoujam, and Indra Rana Magar converted with aplomb before Shubham Poonia slotted home the decisive fourth kick for India.

Only Md. Manik converted for Bangladesh from its three attempts.

The result: Bangladesh 2 (Md Manik 24, Ihsan Habib Riduan 90+7) drew with India 2 (Dallalmuon Gangte 4, Azlaan Shah Kh 38); *India won 4-1 on penalties.*

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Samarth's five-for fashions Mysore's win

Samarth S. Hegde took a second-innings five-wicket haul (5/13) as Mysore beat Mangalore by an innings and 112 runs in the KSCA U-19 inter-zonal tournament.
The scores: Bangalore City XI 115 in 40.1 overs & 175/3 in 42 overs (Pratheek 45, Amogh R. Shetty 60) drew with Secretary's XI 193 in 73 overs (Nitish Arya 82, P. Sri Bhagath 45 n.o., C.B. Preetam 5/36).
Shivamogga 158 in 61.4 overs (M.C. Ajith 43 n.o., B.R. Rathan 5/31) & 167/8 in 60.5 overs (M.C. Ajith 52 n.o., Aditya Shahapurkar 4/57) drew with Vice President's XI 135 in 44 overs (H. Rithvik 72 n.o., A.N. Pradyumna 4/38).
Mysore 302/7 in 90 overs (L. Mohith 54, Varun Patel Lokesha 74, V. Swayam Raje Urs 42, Dhyaan Mahesh Hiremath 50 n.o.) bt Mangalore 143 in 52.3 overs & 47 in 22.2 overs (Samarth S. Hegde 5/13).
Combined City XI 272 in 72 overs (Atharv Malviya 45, S.J. Aadharsh 48, B. Krithin 60, S. Leshan 57, Manikanth Shivanand 6/45) drew with Dharwad 218 in 70.4 overs (Sujay Korawar 43, Ashutosh D. Hiremath 65, Pavan R. Shelled 41, Sujith 3/39).

Keerthana Pandian.

President's XI 176 in 77 overs (R.V. Rohit 60 n.o., Shreyash Patil 4/20) drew with Raichur 89 in 42.4 overs (Sunny Kanchi 5/25).
Tumkur 346/8 in 90 overs (Naresh 87, A.A. Rohith 104) drew with Bangalore 121/4 in 35 overs (Vaasav Venkatesh 59).

Titles for Siddhanth and Mihika

M. Siddhanth and Mihika Udupa emerged the U-13 boys' and girls' champions respectively in the State-ranking table tennis tournament organised by JTTA in Bengaluru.
While Siddhanth defeated Arnav Mithun 11-7, 2-11, 11-6, 11-7, Mihika beat M. Aadhya 14-12, 8-11, 11-4, 11-6.

Keerthana triumphs

Karnataka's Keerthana Pandian edged out Anupama Ramachandran of Tamil Nadu 4-3 (22-33, 45-4, 31-18, 36-46, 58(34)-16, 6-48(45), 47-13) to retain the women's title at the National 6-Red Snooker Championships in Dehradun.